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INSIDE

International	2
Kuwait-Gulf	3-4
Events	5
Editorials	6
Business	7-10
Stocks	8-9
Pictures	11
Features	12-13
Classifieds	14
Urdu	15-16
Sports	17-18

آن کے اردو صفحات میں
 دیکھیں نظر کی روشنی کی تیار رہیں
 کراچی سے خصوصی رپورٹیں
 پاکستان کی اقتصادی صورت حال پر
 اسٹیٹ بینک کی کارکردگی
 دہلی کی پولیس کی سرگرمیوں کی رپورٹ

WEATHER

TEMPERATURE decreases noticeably with light to moderate northwesterly wind.

State of sky: slight
 High water: 6.00am, 7.00 pm
 Low water: 12.00 noon
 Sunrise: 6.34 am
 Sunset: 4.51 pm

Maximum temperature recorded:
 Kuwait: 22°C 72°F
 Ahmedi: 21°C 70°F
 Falaika: 20°C 68°F

Maximum temperature expected:
 Kuwait: 20°C 68°F
 Ahmedi: 19°C 66°F
 Falaika: 18°C 64°F

Minimum temperature recorded:
 Kuwait: 13°C 55°F
 Ahmedi: 12°C 54°F
 Falaika: 11°C 52°F

Maximum humidity recorded:
 Kuwait: 83 per cent
 Ahmedi: 89 per cent
 Falaika: 93 per cent

Maximum humidity expected:
 Kuwait: 73 per cent
 Ahmedi: 79 per cent
 Falaika: 83 per cent

Minimum humidity recorded:
 Kuwait: 35°C 91°F
 Ahmedi: 38°C 98°F
 Falaika: 40°C 104°F

Worst single attack on tanker Iraqi raid leaves 21 crewmen dead

OSLO, Dec 14, (Agencies): Twenty-one crewmen from a Norwegian-run tanker set ablaze by Iraqi jets were killed in the worst single attack on merchant shipping of the Gulf war, shipping officials said today.

The jets pumped Exocet missiles into the 218,467-ton tanker Susagird, owned by the National Iranian Tanker Company and managed by Norway's Reksten Management, as it sailed fully-loaded from Iran's northern Kharg Island terminal.

Jan Evjanth, a spokesman for Reksten, said five other seamen survived the attack and that Iran had abandoned an air and sea search for the remaining crew, including the ship's Norwegian captain.

Treated

"We had a telephone call from Tehran to say that they've called off the search," said Evjanth.

"Four Philippine and one Polish crewman survived and are being treated in hospital. We've been told the others are dead."

"They said they found only two bodies, charred beyond recognition," he said.

Evjanth had no information on the fate of representatives from the National Iranian Tanker Company who were reported to have been on board when the ship was attacked last Wednesday and Thursday.

The known survivors were the Polish chief engineer and the ship's radio officer, second mate, third engineer and canteen boy.

Shipping sources have been unable to obtain clear information about the attack. Earlier reports said 26 people died.

Towed

Since the Gulf tanker war began in earnest in 1984, only last May's attack on the US Navy frigate Stark has killed more people. Thirty seven people died when an Iraqi missile accidentally hit the vessel.

The fire on board had been extinguished and the Susagird was now being towed to the Iranian floating oil terminal of Larak, farther south in the Gulf, the Reksten spokeswoman said.

Reksten manages four ships currently operating in the Gulf, where Norwegian shippers have a stake in one in five vessels sailing within the Strait of Hormuz.

The captain of the Susagird is Olaf Leroy, 58, from Bergen. His death, if confirmed, would be the first Norwegian fatality in the Gulf.

Last Thursday, the Singapore-flagged but Norwegian-managed Norman Atlantic sank in flames, the first tanker to be sent to the bottom in the undeclared tanker war, which has claimed more than 100 seamen's lives.

Iran said its gunboats "intercepted" eight vessels in the Strait of Hormuz but Iranian forces stopped short of attacking shipping amid speculation Ayatollah Khomeini is critically ill.

The waterway had one of its quietest days in weeks yesterday though shipping executives said they doubted the lull in the "tanker war" between Iran and Iraq would last.

Iranian gunboats intercepted and searched eight cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz but allowed them to proceed because there was no Iraqi-destined cargo aboard them, the official Islamic republic news agency reported.

Firefighters brought a fierce blaze on an oil tanker under control yesterday 24 hours after a US warship and a helicopter carrying American newsmen helped rescue the vessel's crew following an Iranian attack, shipping officials said.

Fire-fighting tugs squinting fumes battled through the night to save the Cypriot-flagged 109,700-ton Pivot.

Greek captain Alexander Kontogiorgos nursed the tanker to anchor off the port of Dubai. Marine salvage inspectors began assessing the damage, including a gaping hole in the side ripped open by a rocket-propelled grenade.

Meanwhile, Lloyds shipping intelligence unit reported that an Iranian frigate has attacked two Greek tankers, one sailing to

Palestinian uprising in occupied areas hailed

KUWAIT has hailed the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab lands, and called on the world community to shoulder its responsibilities of stopping Israeli savagery against the innocent Palestinian civilians.

Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed, said yesterday that the Palestinian upheaval in the West Bank and Gaza Strip represents "a cry of challenge to international conscience."

He added that the international community and UN Security Council "should act swiftly to terminate Israeli occupation of Arab lands and stop the brutal massacres committed by the Zionist occupation forces there."

Manifestation

Sheikh Sabah pointed out that Kuwait, while anxiously monitoring the popular uprising, believes it is a genuine manifestation of the Palestinian people's determination to reject the Zionist occupation of their land, and a resolve to regain their legitimate national rights.

During a meeting yesterday with Nathaniel Howell, the US Ambassador in Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah expressed Kuwait's extreme displeasure and dissatisfaction over the Israeli atrocities against Palestinians.

Sheikh Sabah urged the US administration should play a more effective role in stopping Israel from violating human rights in the occupied Arab territories.

In Tunis, General-Secretary of the Arab League Chadi Kibi yesterday praised what he called the rare courage shown by schoolchildren in violent protests in Israeli-occupied territories.

Protester

In Gaza City, troops shot dead a Palestinian demonstrator today and a second protester died of his wounds on the sixth consecutive day of anti-Israeli violence, the Army and Palestinian sources said.

Doctors at Nasser hospital in Khan Yunis, near Gaza City, said that another demonstrator was also shot dead. Neither the Army nor international relief agency sources could confirm this.

Palestinians in Gaza and the occupied West Bank have said at least eight demonstrators have died in unrest which erupted after four Gaza labourers died in the collision of an Israeli Army truck and two other vehicles.

The Gaza Strip rioting, in which at least 10 demonstrators suffered gunshot wounds, was described by United Nations officials as among the worst since



Sheikh Salem (left) receives Abu Ghazala

Egyptian minister arrives for talks on defence

EGYPT's defence minister arrived in Kuwait yesterday heading a military mission to explore how the largest Arab country can help the Gulf country on the edge of the Iran-Iraq war, defend itself.

Abdel Halim Abu Ghazala told reporters at the airport he would discuss Kuwait's security with officials during his four-day visit, the first by a top Egyptian official since the two countries resumed diplomatic ties last month.

His visit followed a vow by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak two months ago that Cairo would help Kuwait with its defence.

Defend

Abu Ghazala said: "Day by day we stand behind Kuwait and we believe that Kuwait and Egypt's security is integral."

"Egypt is ready to defend the Arab nation and to help Kuwait against any foreign aggression."

Kuwait is particularly vulnerable to any military escalation in the Iran-Iraq conflict.

Kuwait supports Iraq against Iran and has been the target of at least seven Silk worm missile attacks this year, Kuwait has blamed Iran for the attacks.

Abu Ghazala is expected to meet HH the Amir today.

Abu Ghazala yesterday met HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah.

Egypt's potential role as a powerful Arab buffer against Iran was largely responsible for a decision last month by Kuwait and other Gulf states to bury their objections to Cairo's separate 1979 peace pact with Israel and to restore diplomatic ties.

Mission

Mubarak met Abu Ghazala on Sunday to discuss plans for his mission to Kuwait.

The semi-official Egyptian newspaper Al-Ahram said Abu Ghazala's delegation included representatives of all the main branches of Egypt's 445,000-strong armed forces and a senior cabinet minister, Arafat Obeid, in charge of cabinet affairs.

Egyptian officials have indicated that Cairo envisages aiding the Kuwaitis if asked, with arms, training and logistical support rather than by sending troops.

Egyptian officials have also indicated that Cairo preferred to act together in a joint force with other Arab states.

Al-Ahram said a military team visited Kuwait recently to survey the country's defence and security situation.

Oil prices fall as Opec strives to reach accord

VIENNA, Austria, Dec 14, (AP): World oil prices tumbled today as Opec sought to wrap up an oil price and production agreement that analysts called a failure for the organisation.

Iran's Oil Minister left Vienna to consult with government leaders in Tehran on whether to accept the prospective Opec accord, which analysts said would do little or nothing to tighten oil supplies and keep prices steady.

In the European spot, or non-contract, market, the price of Britain's widely traded Brent crude for January delivery fell 80 cents a barrel, to \$17.18.

The verdict is that Opec has failed miserably, said Stephen Turner, an analyst at Wood, MacKenzie and Co. in Edinburgh, Scotland.

He said prices were likely to fall even further if Opec adopts the tentative agreement.

It was not certain what Opec would do if Iran decided to reject the pact, although one source said the other members probably would go ahead without Iran.

Confident

Earlier, Venezuelan Oil Minister Arturo Hernandez Griso told reporters he was confident the prospective accord would be ratified and that Iran would join it.

Conference sources said the Iranian Minister, Gholamreza Aghazadeh, was in favour of the deal and that he would seek to persuade Iranian leaders.

The pact calls for retaining Opec's average oil price at \$18 a barrel (42 gallons or 160 litres) and maintaining the same level of production. Many analysts believe Opec needs to cut production in order to avert a steady decline of free-market oil prices.

A Venezuelan delegate, who asked not to be identified, said Iran was the only holdout from the proposed accord.

A meeting of all 13 oil ministers of the Opec was planned for this evening to formally adopt the tentative pact, assuming the Iranian's final position was made known by then, sources said.

Aghazadeh implicitly acknowledged to reporters that he was willing to give up his fight for an Opec price increase, saying this issue "is to be dealt with next time."

Opec's next regularly scheduled meeting is June 9, 1988.

Iran entered the Vienna meeting urging a price hike of at least \$2.70 a barrel. Aghazadeh said last Wednesday that Iran would flood oil markets if its demands were not met.

A faction led by Saudi Arabia and its Arab allies blocked the Iranian proposal, saying the world oil market was too weak to sustain a price increase.

Under the emerging deal, first disclosed on Saturday as a tentative pact, the Opec would

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Bumper Bingo

Mr John Colaco has won the KD 25 Four Corners prize. Game No. 62 continues for the Top Line and three Full House prizes.

Opec talks on

Desperate attempt to stay in power

Ershad trying to strike a deal

DHAKA, Dec 14, (Agencies): President Hossein Mohammad Ershad is trying to make a deal that would halt the opposition's campaign to topple him, sources in his Jatiya Party have said.

Two senior Jatiya leaders said the former Army general may quit the party, promise to refrain from political campaigning and dismiss his cabinet.

Ershad already has called new parliamentary elections in an effort to defuse the crisis triggered by a five-week-old campaign of strikes and protests. But he has refused to bow to demands that he resign from the presidency.

The two Jatiya party leaders, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the reported deal was an attempt by Ershad to ensure fair elections.

The two chief opposition leaders, Sheikh Hasina and Begum Khaleda Zia, could not be reached immediately for comment. But they have said repeatedly that they will not halt their anti-Ershad campaign until he steps down.

The Jatiya sources said the opposition did not want to discuss the deal because they feared it might be a trick to buy time before Ershad lashes out at his opponents.

The opposition parties today held a meeting in Dhaka at the mausoleum of martyred intellectuals where they reiterated their demand for Ershad's resignation.

They termed Ershad's present overtures to hold elections as "a smokescreen to hoodwink people."

"Our demand is clear and simple. General Ershad has got to go. That's the only way to peace," Hasina said yesterday.

Begum Zia told her party workers last night: "Ershad is trying to fool the people by saying he is ready to hold a free and fair vote."

Power

"An election is possible only if he hands over power to a truly independent caretaker government which will be responsible for holding the next polls," she said.

Informed sources said despite the continuing standoff, Ershad's envoys had already set up behind-the-scenes contacts with the newly-freed opposition leaders.

Martens quits after poll setback

BRUSSELS, Dec 14, (Reuters): Prime Minister Wilfried Martens resigned today after a general election setback that plunged Belgium into political uncertainty and sharpened rivalries between its French- and Dutch-speakers.

A Royal palace statement said Martens resigned at a meeting with King Baudouin, a formality which he would have completed whatever the outcome of yesterday's poll, and had been asked to carry on in a caretaker role.

Political sources said it would be very hard for Martens immediately to reconstruct his centre-right coalition even though near-complete results showed it retained an eight-seat majority in the 212-seat chamber of deputies. His previous majority was 18.

"The King has accepted this resignation and asked the government to carry out day-to-day affairs," the statement said.

Political commentators foresaw a protracted political crisis, possibly lasting months, following gains by the Socialists which made them the biggest grouping in Parliament for the first time in 50 years.

"It will take weeks, if not months, before the politicians can create clarity," the Flemish daily De Standaard said in an editorial.

Gold jumps to \$500, dollar slides

LONDON, Dec 14, (Reuters): Gold jumped to a record above \$500 an ounce for the first time in nearly five years today as the dollar edged down to touch new historic lows.

By mid-afternoon, the price of gold had eased to be fixed in London at \$499.75, down from a morning setting of \$502.75.

(See Page 7)

Security alert ordered in Punjab

Sikhs kill top policemen

CHANDIGARH, Dec 14, (AP): Suspected Sikh terrorists dressed in track suits invaded an athletic institute today in Punjab state and fatally shot two senior police officers who were jogging, police said.

At least three gunmen fired automatic weapons at A.S. Brar, police chief of Patiala district, and his deputy, K.P.S. Gill, at the National Institute of Sports in the city of Patiala, Punjab state police spokesman Shigara Singh said.

Brar was killed instantly, and Gill died of his injuries at a local hospital. The two men were unarmed since they were jogging and police said a guard who was with them was shot and injured.

Police said seven suspected Sikh militants managed to enter

the institute's exercise field dressed in track suits, but only three actually fired. The institute helps train Indian athletes for the Olympics and other important sports events.

The gunmen and their accomplices escaped in a jeep, police said. An alert was ordered throughout Punjab, and the state's borders with adjacent Kashmir and Haryana states were sealed.

Patiala is about 55 kilometers southwest of Chandigarh, the Punjab state capital.

Hit list

Brar and Gill were included on a list people to be killed that was announced by Sikh militants who are fighting for secession of Punjab and formation of an

independent Sikh nation. At least 925 people have been killed in Punjab this year in attacks blamed on the Sikh radicals.

The Punjab administration, meanwhile, ended the house arrest of Darshan Singh Ragi, the former Sikh chief priest who planned to lead a march to New Delhi early this month.

Police who surrounded Ragi's house in Zirakpur village, near Chandigarh, were withdrawn last night. He was put under house arrest Dec 3, the day before the march was planned. Police also blocked the march, which was meant to demand the release of thousands of jailed Sikh youths.

Brar had led the police contingent that blocked the march.

China holds photo display of uncivilised behaviour

BEIJING, Dec 14, (Reuters): Official Chinese newspapers praised an "exhibition of uncivilised student behaviour" a week after undergraduates clashed with police in Beijing.

The exhibition of examples of student extravagance and vandalism, on display at the East China Engineering Institute in Nanjing, was intended to shame students into better behaviour, the People's Daily reported.

Photographs showed windows and equipment smashed by students, and wasted food in college canteens. The paper said 2,485 kg of rice had been thrown on dining-room floors in a 10-month period.

Some students did not get up until nine in the morning and took a lengthy lunchtime nap while others decorated toilets with obscene graffiti, the paper quoted campus officials as saying.

China has accused many of its undergraduates of being pampered and lazy.

Abuse

China's media accused Communist Party officials of a long list of crimes today, including watching pornography, stealing state funds, misusing land and selling scarce rail tickets illegally.

"Some party officials have misused power for personal gain such as seeking higher pay, greater bonuses and larger housing, taking bribes or practising bureaucracy," said Meng Zhiyuan, head of party discipline for Beijing.



Asean leaders from left: Thai Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda, Singapore Premier Lee Kuan Yew, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad, Philippine President Corazon Aquino, Sultan Hassan Bolkiah of Brunei and Indonesian President Suharto. (Reuters radiophoto)

Asean summit opens

Aquino praises key role of US bases

MANILA, Dec 14, (Reuters): President Corazon Aquino opened a summit meeting today with a lecture to her South-East Asian neighbours on the key role the Philippines played in their security because of US bases on its soil.

Aquino, disregarding an apparent agreement to leave the bases issue to one side, opened the Association of South-East Asian Nations summit in Manila with a blunt declaration of the "Philippine factor" in the security of the whole Asia-Pacific region.

A Philippine initiative to have reference to the huge air and naval bases maintained by the United States north of Manila but made it clear she believed their presence was perhaps the single most significant factor in regional security.

"The Philippine factor is said to have contributed to the securing of the air space and the sea lanes that are vital to the continued economic stability and growth of our neighbours," she declared.

Indifference

The Philippines, protected by geography, could, if it chose, afford an attitude of "cold indifference" to developments in the region," she added.

The reference diverted Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei from their major preoccupations with the Vietnamese occupation of Kampuchea and economic and trade issues.

Political observers and diplomats here have said Aquino wants an Asean acknowledgment of the regional significance of the American bases to help her defend their presence against the fierce domestic opposition expected when renewal of the bases pact comes up for discussion next year.

A Philippine initiative to have the bases discussed at the summit was rejected in pre-meeting discussions.

Diplomats said it had become clear that although Asean members, all agreed on the significance of the bases they could not publicly say so because of links to the Non-Aligned Movement, Islamic organisations and other non-regional groupings.

Aquino won indirect backing from Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda of Thailand who called for any military adjustments to be made over time "in accordance with the prevailing reality," Aquino labelled the Philippine factor "part of the

reality" of any discussion on regional security.

But her remarks clashed with those of other leaders.

"Let South-East Asia be for South-East Asians and let the people of this region get on with the job of maintaining peace and stability for the sake of their own development and progress," Malaysia Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamed declared.

Both Mahathir and Indonesian President Suharto pressed for quickly turning South-East Asia into a nuclear-free zone.

The rare regional summit meeting, only the third ever for 20-year-old Asean and the first in a decade, began behind a security screen unprecedented even for coup-prone Manila.

Manila, haunted by a succession of bomb incidents and rumours in the run-up to the six-nation summit, was packed with troops and police on action-ready alert status.

Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew won laughter and applause from the other summit participants and the hand-picked audience at the public session when he said, that none of the leaders would be in Manila if they had listened to their security services.

Ershad trying to strike a deal

(Continued from Page 1)

The Bangladesh Election Commission said today it was updating the list of voters to prepare for new elections.

The revision of the existing nearly 48 million-voter list has already begun, a commission statement said. It urged 18 year olds to register to vote.

Push

Home Ministry officials said the government would no longer allow the opposition to push the country towards political anarchy and cripple its poor economy.

Officials have said a series of opposition-led general strikes since Nov 10 have cost Bangladesh more than \$700 million lost production and exports.

Government and opposition party supporters clashed in south-western Bangladesh today, leaving at least two people dead, intelligence sources in Agartala said.

They said one government Jatiya Party activist and an opposition supporter were killed in the river port of Chalna, 100 km (60 miles) from Dhaka.

Another clash took place in Feni, near the Indo-Bangladesh border, but no details were available, they said in Agartala, capital of India's Tripura state, adjacent to Bangladesh.

Palestinian uprising ---

(Continued from Page 1)

Israel captured the area from Egypt in 1967.

To the occupied West Bank, troops shot and wounded a Palestinian in the Jelazoun refugee camp, state radio said.

The Army said it was checking the report, but confirmed there were violent protests in the camp as well as in the towns of Ramallah and Hebron.

Seven Palestinians have been killed and scores wounded in anti-Israeli demonstrations since four Gazan workers died in a traffic accident involving an Israeli Army truck last week.

Some local residents in Gaza said the violence was the worst since the 1948 Arab-Israeli war.

Demonstrators burned tyres, erected road blocks and hurled stones at passing cars throughout the impoverished Gaza Strip, home to 650,000 Palestinians, most of them refugees.

PLO leader Yasser Arafat said today Israeli forces had killed at least 32 Palestinians in clashes in the occupied territories and appealed for UN intervention to halt what he called the Israeli genocide.

Mystery woman to be extradited to Seoul

MANAMA, Bahrain, Dec 14, (UPI): Korean and Bahraini officials thrashed out today the final terms for extraditing an Oriental woman suspected in the disappearance of a Korean Air Lines jet with 115 people aboard last month, diplomatic sources said.

A special KAL DC-10 cargo jet that arrived at Bahrain airport late yesterday under cover of darkness is ready to whisk away the slim brunette to Seoul.

Bahraini soldiers brandish German-made submachine guns moved guard on the aircraft at the cargo area of Bahrain airport in case of any possible terrorist attack.

Diplomatic sources said Bahraini, Japanese and Korean investigators probing the Nov 29 crash over Burma made a breakthrough in tracing the true identity of the woman, who travelled to Bahrain from Abu Dhabi on a forged Japanese passport in the name of Mayumi Hichay, 28.

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Soviets infiltrate Mossad

WASHINGTON, Dec 14, (UPI): Soviet infiltration of Israel's spy agency, Mossad, is the most serious blow to Israeli intelligence since the 1970s and US intelligence also was breached as a result, US sources reveal.

Mossad has been penetrated by "highly placed" Soviet moles and a full-scale internal counterintelligence investigation is under way, the intelligence sources said.

A Justice Department source said US counterintelligence agents became aware of the Israeli-Soviet espionage pipeline when data stole by Jonathan Jay Pollard, a US Navy analyst convicted of spying for Israel, was "traced to the Eastern bloc."

Intelligence sources said data reaching the Soviets via this route included sensitive US weapons technology and strategic information about the defence forces of Turkey, Pakistan and moderate Arab countries, including Saudi Arabia.

US intelligence analysts said the Pollard data was traded to the Soviets in return for promises to increase emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

One analyst said Israel's "right-wing" Jews are involved with spying for the Soviets and called it "ironic."

Eleven killed in Sri Lanka violence

COLOMBO, Dec 14, (AP): At least 10 Tamil rebels died in battles between rebel groups that raged into today in northern Sri Lanka, military officials said.

The officials said fighters of the dominant Tamil Tigers militia also detonated buried explosives under an Indian military convoy last night in eastern Sri Lanka.

The explosion killed one soldier, wounded nine others and destroyed a jeep. It occurred near Tirukovil, 60 kilometers south of Batticaloa, the officials said.

The battles between the Tigers and smaller Tamil groups began yesterday near Manoor, the officials said. They said fighting persisted into today in the area, about 230 kilometres north of Colombo.

The independent Suo newspaper said 25 people were killed in the fighting, but the military officials could only confirm 10 deaths.

Attacks

The Tigers have been attacking the smaller Tamil militia groups because these groups support the July 29 Indian-brokered

peace plan to end the Tamil ethnic war, the officials said.

The Tigers are opposed to the accord and want a separate Tamil homeland in the north and east of Sri Lanka. The peace accord offers limited autonomy to the Tamils in exchange for the rebels giving up their weapons.

The blast near Tirukovil is the second major attack on the Indians in the area since Dec. 2.

Tiger guerrillas killed nine Indians in an ambush in the area on that day, triggering an Indian retaliation in which at least 25 civilians were killed.

Meanwhile, the Tigers set

alight the homes of about 30 Burgher families, the military officials said. Burghers are descendants of Portuguese and Dutch colonial settlers.

The Burghers are not involved in the separatist war, and it was not immediately known why they were targets of a Tigers attack.

The attack near Valachchenai

town, 30 kilometers north of Batticaloa, forced the 30 to flee their village and take shelter in refugee camps, the officials said.

Bingo Day 4
26 48 7 12

Election fever sweeps S. Korea

Kim Dae Jung urged to quit

SEOUL, Dec 14, (UPI): Opposition candidate Kim Young-Sam today issued a last-minute appeal to rival dissident leader Kim Dae Jung to bow out of Wednesday's presidential election to help defeat ruling party candidate Roh Tae-Woo.

Independent candidate Baek Ki-Wan, meanwhile, announced he was dropping out of the race to give the opposition a better chance.

"The general trend has already been decided in my favour," Kim Young-Sam said at a press conference.

"In the name of our people, I urge candidate Kim Dae Jung to make a courageous decision for a single opposition candidate to make sure that military rule is terminated and stable democratisation is achieved."

Kim said public opinion polls and foreign media reports had singled him out as the front-runner and, therefore, Kim Dae Jung should concede the opposition candidacy.

"If he does so, it will restore the people's trust in him," Kim Young-Sam said. "It will be a great patriotic decision. And I remind that I have already proposed a grand democratic coalition government to be formed after the election."

Polls

Kim gave no details of the polls he said showed him leading. It is illegal in South Korea to release the results of public opinion polls on voter preference. Each candidate has been conducting such surveys.

Kim Jae-Kwang, Kim Young-

Sam's campaign manager, mailed a letter to Kim Dae Jung relaying Kim Young-Sam's demand.

Analysts said, however, there was no chance Kim Dae Jung would withdraw from the race. Kim Dae Jung has repeatedly asked Kim Young-Sam to bow out.

Sole independent candidate Baek Ki-Wan, who pressured both Kims to agree on a single candidate, said he withdrew "to enhance opposition chances" in Wednesday's election.

Baek was the third candidate to withdraw, leaving five still in the race. They are Roh Tae-Woo, the two Kims, former Prime Minister Kim Jong-Pil, and Shin Chung-II whose party consists primarily of members of the indigenous Hanism religion.

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Soviet team to brief Kuwait on summit talks

MOSCOW, Dec 14, (Kuna): A ranking Soviet delegation is to visit the Middle East next week on a tour comprising Kuwait, Syria and Egypt. Kuna learnt from a reliable Soviet diplomatic source today.

The source said the Soviet team would be headed by the vice-chairman of international relations department of the Communist Party's Central Committee, Karen Brutents.

The tour, starting Dec 22, aims at briefing the governments of the three Arab countries on the results of the recent superpowers summit in Washington, and exchanging views on the Iran-Iraq war and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Another Soviet Foreign Ministry envoy is in Baghdad to inform officials on the Gorbachev-Réagan summit talks, and future moves to end the Iran-Iraq war.

Embargo

The Kremlin has reportedly agreed to discussing a second UN Security Council resolution ordering a mandatory arms embargo on Iran following a report by UN Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuellar has indicated Tehran had still not abandoned its conditions for accepting resolution 598 ordering a ceasefire.

The De Cuellar report contained an assessment of prospects for a diplomatic settlement on basis of resolution 598 in the light of the Secretary General's extensive talks at the UN this month with Iraqi Foreign Minister, Tariq Aziz and Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister, Mohammad Jawad Larijani.

Until recently the Soviet position has called for more diplomatic contacts to convince Tehran to sit at the negotiating table, while calling for a withdrawal of all extraneous foreign forces from the Gulf and replacing them with a UN task force to safeguard freedom of navigation in the waterway.



HH the Amir with the Somali Education Minister, Abdissalam Sheikh Hussein.

Mauritian deputy premier in Kuwait

By Keith Wells

SIR Gaetan Duval Q.C., Deputy Prime Minister of the tiny island nation of Mauritius is currently in Kuwait on a semi-official visit to discuss bilateral trade relations.

In an exclusive interview with the Arab Times, Sir Gaetan said: "We buy \$25 million worth of oil from Kuwait every year and we feel that there should be some reciprocal trade," he said.

There are several options, such as promoting Kuwaiti tourism to Mauritius, or increasing Kuwaiti investment in our country. We are particularly interested in arranging Kuwaiti investment in our manufacturing industry.

Visas "We make shirts for Christian Dior and we also export knitted woollens to Europe and America so we feel there are some good opportunities for investors. We have special laws to protect foreign investments and of course, there are also excellent tax incentives."

Sir Gaetan and his delegation have so far met with the chairman of Kuwait's Chamber of



Sir Gaetan Duval

Commerce and several prospective investors as well as four operators and representatives of British Airways.

"The new British Airways twice weekly flights to Mauritius via Bahrain give us a good opportunity to increase the tourist traffic," he said.

"Mauritius is a beautiful island and we are already building five new hotels to accommodate the increasing flow of

visitors. I should stress that holders of all GCC passports do not need visas to visit our country."

With its stunning natural beauty, all-year-round sunshine, superb hotels and magnificent beaches, Mauritius also has some of the best food in the world, a delicious blend of French, Chinese and Creole cuisines.

"In March we are organising a big tourist promotion in all of the Gulf states in co-ordination with British Airways," Sir Gaetan continued.

"We will bring some chefs, dancers, folklore groups as well as businessmen interested in joint ventures."

"So far, on this visit, we have had an excellent reaction and a group of prospective investors will come to visit Mauritius during the first week of March so that we can show them the special magic of our island."

From Kuwait Sir Gaetan Duval will be going to New Delhi to meet Rajiv Gandhi, a personal friend. Sir Gaetan was one of the team of international lawyers who defended Indira Gandhi when she was imprisoned.

Obtain licence to set up desert camp

MUTLAQ Al Bighaili an official of Kuwait Municipality said that citizens who wish to set up camps in the desert must obtain a licence and pay a deposit of KD100. He added that camping is allowed only from the first of December to the end of April and on holidays.

Al Bighaili said that the purpose of the KD deposit was to ensure that citizens cleaned up their camping areas before leaving the camp site and that the Municipality would retain the deposit of citizens who violated camping regulations. He added that the deposit would be refunded in full when the camper left the site and if everything was in order.

He added that camp sites must be at least two kilometres from borders and military and oil installations.

Private medical centres

PRIVATE medical centres established by Kuwaiti doctors working for the Health Ministry must have four clinics: general medicine, surgery, gynaecology and maternity, and paediatrics. The circular giving the conditions governing the issue of licences to ministry doctors added, that each centre will be allowed to include another clinic with the approval of the ministry.

It said the centre must be provided with all the necessary staff and equipment, and housed in one building.

Emergency landing

CAIRO, Dec 14, (Reuters): A Saudi airliner with 177 passengers on board dumped its excess fuel and made an emergency landing at Cairo International airport today after fire broke out in the right engine, airport sources said.

The three-engine Tristar of the Saudi national airline Saudia was en route from Jeddah to Istanbul when the pilot reported an engine fire and asked to land in Cairo, they said.

Dettol competition winners

THE names of the five winners of the Dettol competition were decided on Saturday by the local distributor, Al Wazzan Company, in the presence of a representative from the Commerce and Industry Ministry.

The winners are: Paul Mathew Abraham, Mrs. Raviyah Abbas Al. Kook, Adnan Abdullah, Mrs. Dolcie Soares and Raymond Mahfooz. They should call Intermarkets on 4848846 for collecting their prizes.

Winners must claim their prizes within one month, otherwise they will lose their right and substitute winners will be chosen.

Residents complain of sand heaps

THERE are big heaps of sand and construction debris at the end of Khaled Bin Al Waleed Street in Sharq. People living in the area say this situation has existed for more than 18 months. The residents added that a committee from the museum was supposed to come to the area for excavations because of its historical interest.

A number of shop owners in the neighbourhood were interviewed by the Seyassah newspaper about the situation.

The owner of a shop, Joma Bu Arki, said that shop owners in the area suffered a great deal from the dirt and piles of sand. He said that many people used to come

formerly to the area for shopping but had stopped doing so because of the obstructions. This affected business badly and the shopkeepers suffered heavy losses. He called on officials of the Public Works Ministry to visit the site and see its condition.

Another shop owner, Jassem Mohammed, said that excavation began in June last year and the condition had remained unchanged. He said it was learnt there was a dispute between the National Housing Authority, the contractor and the Public Works Ministry. He said the shop owners did not have anything to do with this, but their business suffered and their customers were becoming fewer as time passed. He added they did not make enough money to pay the rent and had to meet it from their pockets. He said the street had a good location originally because it was opposite the Sabar Complex and in the middle of the city. He said officials should act quickly or allow the shop owners to dispose of the sand and debris.

A third shop owner, Ahmad Darwish, said that the National Housing Authority should solve the problem. He complained that the bad street conditions resulted in many traffic accidents. The only thing we can do is to just sit and wait for the best, he added.

Sri Lankan music festival



ELEVEN-year-old Ruwan Sri Lal stole the show at the Sri Lankan music festival, which ended on Sunday night. Ruwan delighted the audience with a series of English, Hindi, Tamil and Sinhala numbers. Seven vocalists had come from Colombo for the concerts, arranged by the Sri

Lankan Association in Kuwait. They were Bandula Wijewera, Gratian Ananda, Charnace Wijewardene, Chandra Attanayake, Rohan Baddage and Sujatha Attanayake.

The concerts were arranged for charity and the proceeds will be sent to terrorist victims in Sri

Lanka and other charitable organisations.

The Sri Lankan Ambassador to Kuwait, C.H. Mohammad and a number of invited guests attended the festival. Picture shows the singers on stage at a local hotel (Photos by Ahmad Al Burini)

Course on sea pollution

A COURSE on sea pollution, sponsored by Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), began on Sunday at KISR.

Dr Dhari Al Ajmi, the Director of Environmental and Global Science at KISR, said that the course was organised because of the concern for marine pollution and research that is being done in this area. He added that the course would focus on information about marine pollution, data systems in researching this area and computerisation of such data.

Al Ajmi said that lectures would be delivered by Dr Joseph

from KISR's Farming and Fisheries Department, Dr Peter Literaty and Dr Abdunabi Al Ghadban from the Environmental and Global Science Department.

Mishref council

THE Mishref Area Council met on Saturday to discuss several area projects and activities and decided to send a delegation to the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Resources to get information about planting the roundabouts and establishing a garden in the Mishref area.

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ROYAL COURT

Amiri audience

HH the Amir yesterday received Somali Minister of Culture and Higher Education, Abdissalam Sheikh Hussein who conveyed a message from President Mohammed Siad Barre.

The meeting was attended by Education Minister Anwar Al Nouri and Somali Ambassador to Kuwait.

Crown Prince audience

HH the Crown Prince and Premier, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah yesterday received Somali Minister of Culture and Higher Education, Abdissalam Sheikh Hussein, on the occasion of visiting the country.

The meeting was attended by the Education Minister Anwar Al Nouri and Somali Ambassador to Kuwait.

KUWAIT PRESS DIGEST

Call to reconsider death sentences

A KUWAITI newspaper yesterday appealed to the leaders in South Yemen to "reconsider" the sentences passed last Saturday on former president Ali Nasser Mohammed and his colleagues.

Nasser and 35 of his colleagues were sentenced to death by firing squad and others to life imprisonment or 15 years in jail for their part in the bloody incidents of January last year.

The sentences were described by North Yemen President Ali Abdolloh Saleh as "disappointing" and appealed to President Haydar Abu Baker Al Attas to commute the death sentences.

Writing editorially, Al Rai Al Aam upheld the call by President Saleh on the South Yemeni leaders to reconsider what it viewed as harsh sentences "if only to help extend bridges of brotherhood, cooperation and cohesion between people of the two Yemens."

North and South Yemen have for long been working for unity and have set up a joint council designed to speed up unity factors from the bottom of the ladder.

Palestinian issues discussed

SALEEM Al Zanoun, the deputy chairman of the Palestinian National Council and the commissioner of the Al Fatah Movement in Kuwait and Arab Gulf countries, said that several educational and social issues relating to Palestinians in Kuwait had been discussed at the fourth Al Fatah Movement meeting recently.

He said that there are many Palestinian children in Kuwait who are unable to enrol in private schools because of financial problems and since their parents came to Kuwait after

1957, they are unable to attend government schools.

Al Zanoun said that it was decided that the Palestinian Women's Union would discuss the position of these children and possibly provide tuition for them.

12 accidents

A FOUR-YEAR-OLD child died after being knocked down by a car in Khaitan yesterday.

There were 12 traffic accidents in Kuwait, with four taking place in the capital, three in Hawalli and five in Ahmadi.

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KUWAIT ... GULF

Sheikh Nawaf opens seminar on vandalism

People urged to use facilities with care

By Lima Al Khalafawi

KUWAIT'S Interior Minister, Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed, yesterday called for "civilised behaviour" to preserve public facilities, and urged people to use the facilities with utmost care and responsibility.

He added that the state had made "great strides" in providing the best health, educational, social service and entertainment facilities so that citizens and other residents could enjoy a "comfortable and stable life."

Increased
Sheikh Nawaf was speaking on vandalism and ways to prevent it at a seminar, which he

opened yesterday at the Arab Planning Institute.

He said that the information project against vandalism was vital because it combatted an important problem relating to society and the services provided by the state.

The undersecretary of the Interior Ministry and head of the projects executive committee, Major General Yousef Bader Al Khorafi, said that vandalism increased with the growth of public facilities, and the problem could only be solved "by changing social attitudes." The project had begun to do this by utilising various media, such as press, television and posters. In addition, studies have been made into

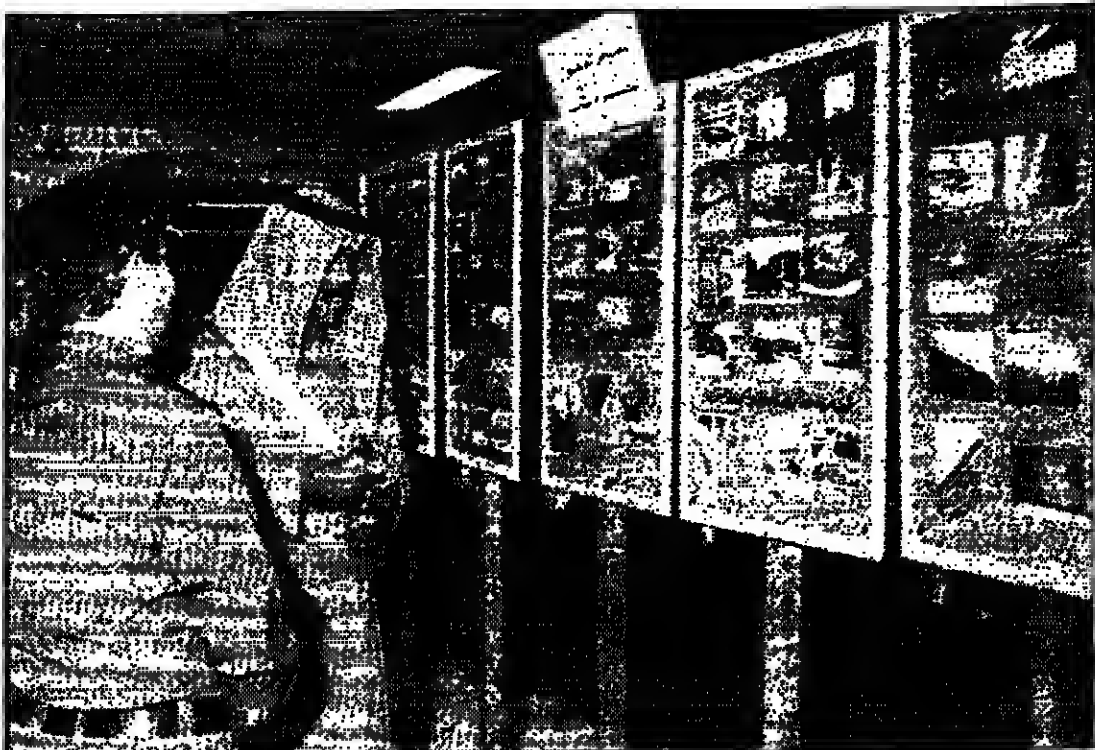
why individuals destroyed public facilities.

A member of the executive committee, Dr Mohammed Al Sarawi, said that studies had established that vandalism was not connected to "any particular social class or age group."

Negligence

He said a study by the studies and research department of the Interior Ministry showed that millions of dinars had been lost as a result of "negligence and misuse" of facilities.

He said the committee had accomplished a great deal since it began its work in August. It had prepared reports and studies in addition to printing booklets, posters and stickers.



Sheikh Nawaf looks at photographs on the consequences of vandalism.

Five-year plan to modernise Kuwait Radio

KUWAIT'S Information Minister, Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed, unveiled yesterday a five-year ministry plan to modernise Kuwait Radio, update its equipment and boost its transmission to increase area of coverage.

Speaking during his weekly diwaniya at the ministry premises yesterday, the minister indicated the ministry had received many complaints about the clarity of Kuwait radio transmission and the difficulty of

picking its frequencies in the US, Canada and Japan.

He attributed the defects to the radio's outdated equipment, and atmospheric factors due to Kuwait's geographical location.

Sheikh Nasser pointed out that the executive steps of the plan will start this summer, which would also allow listeners in Latin America, Australia, the Far and the Southeast Asia to tune in to Radio Kuwait during 1989.

Amiri message handed over to UN chief

UNITED NATIONS, Dec 14. (Kuna): A message from HH the Amir of Kuwait addressed to US President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev was delivered today to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Kuwaiti Ambassador Mohammad A. Abdulhassan asked the UN chief executive to circulate the letter as an official document of the General Assembly.

In the letter, HH the Amir paid tribute to the two superpowers contribution to resolution 598, calling for an immediate ceasefire in the war between Iran and Iraq.

New draft law for co-ops

A KUWAITI daily reported yesterday that a special committee at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour had completed a new draft law for cooperative societies which will be submitted to the Council of Ministers for approval.

It was reported that the new law is expected to cover all aspects of cooperatives and included restrictions and conditions for those holding management posts at the cooperatives.

Guiding people to truth

RIYADH, Dec 14. (UPI): The chief of Saudi Arabia's morality police, who sometimes surprise foreign visitors by demanding to know if couples are married or by switching women in short dresses with canes, defended their work today as designed "to guide people to truth."

Members of the Saudi committee for the propagation of virtue and the suppression of vice, popularly known as "Mutawwaa" — are well-known throughout the kingdom for patrolling city streets during the five daily Muslim prayers to ensure all restaurants and shops are closed out of respect.

"I will sum up the objective of the committee in one phrase — to guide people to truth," said the morality watchdog body's acting president, Abdul Rahman Bin Ahmad Al Sheikh, in a rare interview published today by the English-language Arab News.

Al Sheikh said all members of the committee are male government employees drawing a monthly salary.

"In the past, the committee used to recruit its members from reputable men without any qualifications," he said. Today, Sharia judges recommend committee presidents. Junior administrative and financial appointments are made through the civil service board.

The Mutawwaa, frequently to be seen switching canes at European women whose hemlines are deemed too short or stopping young couples to see if they are married, are one of the most visible signs of Saudi Arabia's deep conservative on moral matters.

Survey will help solve traffic problems

MOSA Al Sarraf, the director of the organisation department at Kuwait Municipality, said that the traffic survey being conducted at a cost of K.D.500,000 would enable the Municipality to find appropriate solutions for solving Kuwait's traffic problems.

Speaking at the Kuwait Road Safety Society's weekly seminar, Al Sarraf said that the traffic survey was designed to give input in the organisation of future traffic movement plans and would hopefully alleviate traffic congestion in the future.

He said that 57 sites in various areas of the country were used to gather information and that the country had been divided into 350 areas to help pinpoint specific problem areas.

Al Sarraf added that recommendations, such as an express train, had been made to alleviate some of the traffic in the Capital, but indicated that the expense of such a scheme would be prohibitive.

Three fined for manslaughter

KUWAIT'S Court of Misdemeanours has fined three people KD200 each on a charge of manslaughter through failure to comply with municipality regulations.

The court was told that a girl died when a wall of her bedroom was knocked down and buried her due to demolition taking place next door.

Amir appeals to commute death sentence on Ali Nasser

HH the Amir has appealed for commutation of the death sentences passed recently by an Aden court against the former South Yemeni president Ali Nasser Mohammed and a number of his followers.

In a cable yesterday addressed to the chairman of the Peoples Higher Presidium in Democratic Yemen, Haider Abu Bakr Al Attas, the Amir said compassion and tolerance among people of the same country have its immense impact in erasing ill-feeling and beretic tendencies against companions of the same path and comrades in arms.

Motivated by real feelings of fraternity and bonds of amity towards the people and government of Democratic Yemen, the Amir emphasised great concern with the events in South Yemen to which Kuwait is bound by ties of blood, faith and common destiny.

"We wish," the Amir said in his cable, "from your excellency and all members of the presidium to look with due consideration into commuting the sentences, particularly those involving lives, in order that they be replaced by feelings of mercy and compassion."

The Amir noted that such a step could prompt those affected to extend a helping hand and contribute to the building of the country as well as the welfare of its people.

Amir of Bahrain receives Reagan's message

MANAMA, Dec 14. (AP): President Reagan today congratulated the Amir of Bahrain on the Gulf state's National Day and the US Senate's approval of the sale of Stinger anti-aircraft missiles. Arab diplomats reported.

The Gulf News Agency said without elaboration that the message was delivered to Sheikh Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifa by US Ambassador Sam Zakhem.

The meeting was also attended by Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa Bin Salman and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed Bin Mubarak, the agency said.

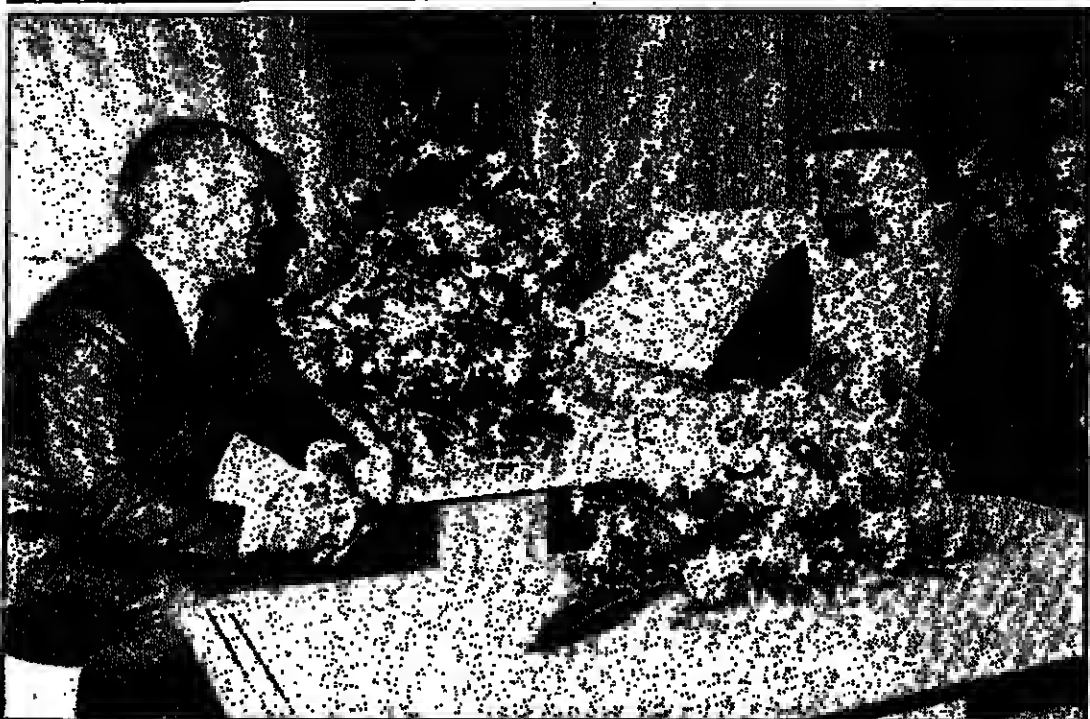
Zakhem said Reagan praised Sheikh Issa for Bahrain's efforts to seek stability and security in the Gulf region, troubled by the 7-year-old Iran-Iraq war.

The Arab diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, reported that Reagan said he was happy that the 7 million-dollar Stinger sale had gone through.

Jawara arrives

PRESIDENT of Gambi Dawda Jawara arrived in Kuwait yesterday evening heading a state delegation on a three day official visit.

He was received on arrival by Minister of Commerce and Industry, head of the accompanying mission of honour, Faisal Abdul Razzaq Al Khalid and senior officials in the Amiri Diwan and the Foreign Ministry.



UAE President Sheikh Zayed meets with King Hussein of Jordan during the latter's visit to the UAE on Sunday. (Reuters radiophoto)

King Hussein ends Gulf tour

AMMAN, Dec 14. (Agencies): King Hussein returned home today from a three-day tour of five Gulf countries apparently aimed at coordinating positions prior to his upcoming trip to Moscow.

The official Jordan news agency reported that Hussein returned home from Oman, the last stop on a trip that earlier took him to Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates.

The king also has visited Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iraq and Egypt since last month's Arab summit in Amman, which called for international efforts to press Iran into accepting a ceasefire to its seven-year war with Iraq.

Coordinate
Diplomatic sources in the Gulf said Hussein was meeting with regional leaders to coordinate stands prior to a trip to Moscow which Jordanian sources say is due in about a week.

The Soviet Union has so far balked at imposing a US-proposed arms embargo against Iran for its failure to endorse United Nations Security Council resolution 598, demanding an immediate ceasefire in the Gulf conflict.

Stand

The Gulf diplomats also said Hussein was trying to cement the Arab unity established during the Amman summit, which saw tentative moves toward reconciliation between Iraq and Syria.

The Jordanian agency said Hussein and Gulf leaders discussed "the continued efforts toward implementing the positive resolutions of the Arab summit for a united Arab stand," as well as undisclosed bilateral issues.

The largest factor in Jordan's economy is money sent home by Jordanian workers in the Gulf area. Jordanian officials have urged Gulf states to avoid including Jordanians in their cutbacks of expatriate workers.

Syrian minister due in Kuwait

SYRIAN Deputy Minister of Higher Education Dr Omar Karmon will arrive today for a few-days official visit.

During the visit Karmon will hold talks with Kuwait's Minister of Education Anwar Al Nouri on the educational and cultural issues between the two

countries.

He will also meet with director general of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training and will visit the Arab Centre for Educational Research of the Gulf states, the Centre of Educational Researches, Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, and Kuwait University.

Inspection tour

KUWAIT'S Public Works Minister, Abdul Rahman Al Houti, made an inspection tour of Ahmadi governorate yesterday morning.

During the visit he held a meeting with the Governor, Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salim, and senior governorate officials. They discussed the requirements of various areas for public services, gardens, schools, roads, parking areas, landscaping and other services.

Al Houti told reporters later that the ministry was planning to double its efforts in connection with paving of roads and five contracts would be signed for this. The ministry had already issued a number of tenders for 14 public gardens.

He called on contractors to meet their obligations.



Al Houti (right) and officials at a construction site.



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Kuwait's State Minister for Cabinet Affairs, Rashed Al Rashed, yesterday met the US Ambassador to Kuwait, Nathaniel Howell (centre).

Distribution of Sawaber flats soon

DR IBRAHIM Al Shaheen, the director general of Kuwait's National Housing Authority (NHA), announced that the authority had completed preparations for the distribution of flats in the Al Sawaber Project and that they would be distributed soon.

Al Shaheen said that the authority in cooperation with other government establishments had fulfilled all the project requirements. He added that the construction cost for houses build on plots distributed by the authority had been estimated at KD35,000 to 38,000.

The director general also said that contracts with private companies to work in the housing programme would be finalised soon.

Kuwait, US nearing cultural agreement

KUWAIT and the US moved closer yesterday to reaching a cultural and educational agreement, where State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Al Rashed, Kuwait's top culture official, had talks at his office with the American Ambassador Nathaniel Howell.

Al Rashed told Kuna that his exchanges with the American diplomat focussed on a mutual desire to finalise a cultural accord regulating cultural and educational activities between the two countries.

Al Rashed, President of the National Council of Culture, Art and Letters, added that hundreds of Kuwaiti students are studying at American colleges and universities and practicing a wide-range

of cultural and scientific activities. He pointed out that the aim of such agreement is to regulate common programmes within frameworks mutually beneficial and guarantee continuation of bilateral cooperation.

The state minister noted that officials at the National Council would initiate preparations for drafting the cultural agreement with the US, as Kuwait was seeking better ties with the governments internationally.

Afterwards, Al Rashed received a courtesy call from Tunisian Ambassador in Kuwait, Omar Al Ghazani, who is soon ending his tour of duty.



Tarek Al Mowayed, Bahrain's Minister of Information, opening the Kuwait Week in Bahrain. (Kuna picture)

Holi checks freshness of fish

THE superintendent at the Seif fish market, Ali Al Holi, said his duties included ensuring that no imported fish was sold at the market and checking the fish for freshness.

He said an auction was held every afternoon, and customers, middlemen and salesmen gathered to take part.

He said that fish prices were high these days because of the difficult conditions and because only fish caught in Kuwait were displayed.

Iraqi raid leaves 21 dead

(Continued from Page 1)

Kuwait and the other to Saudi Arabia, to the southern Gulf, causing minor damage.

The London-based unit, identified the vessels as the 48,671-ton Filikos and the 51,372-ton Tharaleos and said they were attacked within 16 minutes of each other Friday night.

Both vessels sustained minor damage and no casualties were reported, Lloyd's said in the first report of the attacks.

In Tehran, Iranian officials denied reports by Arab sources at the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries meeting in

Vienna that 87-year-old Khomeini had been hospitalised. "By God's grace, the Imam's health is better than ever," said a spokesman at Khomeini's personal bureau in northern Tehran.

A special Soviet envoy has arrived in Baghdad to brief Iraqi leaders on the outcome of US-Soviet summit talks on the Iran-Iraq war.

A Soviet embassy spokesman said today that Mikhail Sennik, an ambassador for special assignments who flew in last night, would also review Soviet-Iraqi relations in his talks later today.

A home: Boushnaq's elusive dream

By Fathima Ahmed

PALESTINIAN artist Mohamad Boushnaq has a dream — one that every one nurtures from an early age — the desire to build a tiny cottage, surrounded by trees and shrubs and flowers and vegetables, a place which he can call his own. This has been an elusive dream for Boushnaq, who was driven away from his home not once but twice — first from Haifa in 1949 and then from Hebron in 1967.

And the themes of his paintings revolve around this dream. Boushnaq's works are now on show at the Free Atelier Gallery on Arabian Gulf Street. They also portray the artist's compromise with his not so final "refugee in Kuwait." "I cannot despair all the time. I try to forget the bitter memories and immerse myself in my work — painting," he says. But once he has the brush in his hand and the canvas before him the sadness spills over in colour, line, form and symbols. The massacre of Palestinian refugees has had a profound influence on the artist.

ist in Boushnaq and this is a recurring theme in his works.

"Fleeing" shows two women on the run with confusion surrounding them; there is also a semblance of safety in the work. The painting is symbolic of mass killings of Palestinians.

Illusion
"We believe we are safe; this is just an illusion. No one is safe, maybe for the moment, but not for long, though," he says. Yet, Boushnaq is not a pessimist who finds a slender ray of hope among the death, destruction and bloodshed of war.

"No man wants to hurt even a bird. Why do people kill each other?" he asks, looking thoughtfully with his deep, probing eyes. Nothing escapes the artist's eye. He finds a message in every word he bears and each object he sees.

After the Sabra and Shatila massacres, he saw a news report. One of the victims had raised his hands in prayer: "Oh, God, help us." That phrase has been translated into a work of art. Simply called "The Praying," it captures a group of women with their heads turned upwards, toward the sky, and

their arms, brutally severed, raised in prayer.

"God helps those who help themselves," he states matter of factly.

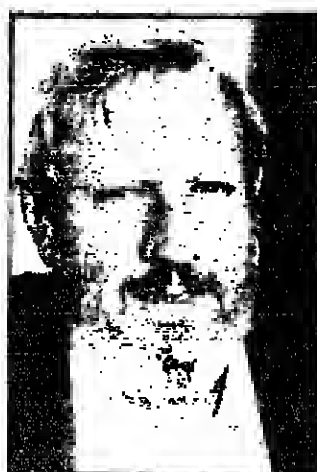
But he is not so sure about superpower rivalry and the future of "the world we live in." In his sculptures called "The Message", he exposes his hidden fears of the two big giants crushing humanity and subjugating them.

The giants, in Boushnaq's terminology, mean the US and Soviet Union.

Game
"The smaller nations — the Arabs, the Indians and all the others are powerless. They are pawns in the game begun and manipulated by the two giants," he says.

The twisted face of a man, or something that looks like a human face, peers at the viewer in a bronze sculpture, also entitled "The Message." This one speaks of the nuclear buildup with the man's face shaped like a missile, giving a disturbing picture of a world on the edge of disaster.

"Why are nations building up arsenals when millions are starving?" asks Boushnaq.



Mohammad Boushnaq; pursuing a dream. (Photos by Mohammad Nayer)

The artist pays tribute to the war victims in a painting called "Oscar", created from mutilated dead bodies littered on a field after a massacre. A very disturbing work of art derived from the stark reality of destruction.

Boushnaq's paintings evoke sympathy for a people who are living a tragedy forced upon them, and as Boushnaq has made a compromise, latching out to that tiny ray of hope — the possibility of a better future — that flickers in the artist's works.

Boushnaq, like other Palestinian artists, believes in eventual peace. The white doves symbolises it in his works in a painting aptly named "Hope." Turquoise, red and green are



Tears, by Boushnaq

mixed to create ripples of excitement, in the hope that peace will come.

Hope
"Don't we all believe in hope? Without that we'll be very unhappy people," he says.

And, with that, he advocates more freedom for women through a painting called "Despair", with the shape of a woman hidden in a black tent-like abaya. "For our children to grow into healthy individuals,

they must be brought up by progressive-minded women. So, we must give our women freedom and help them develop a personality."

Through the woman, and children Boushnaq perceives eventual change, bringing about the birth of a world where peace reigns. Perhaps, this is just another idealistic dream of a dedicated artist. And this is an "Ancient Dream" in Boushnaq's work.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

2.15 Holy Quran
2.30 World News via Satellite
3.30 Sanshiro: cartoon serial
4.00 News Summary
4.05 World News via satellite
4.45 La Ilaha Illallah: historical serial, featuring Yusuf Shabaan, Raghad, Hala Fakher
5.15 Al Manabal: children's serial, starring Ahmad Qawadri, Tayseer Attiya
5.45 Expeditions: documentary
6.15 Agricultural Magazine
7.05 News Summary
7.15 Afaq Al Fann: Art Horizons
8.00 Hadith Al Usbooh: religious talk by Sheikh Ali Al Jassar
8.15 Good Evening and Local News
9.00 News in Arabic
9.50 Ghaddan Tadaq Al Ajras: daily serial, starring Salah Saadani, Hina Tharvath
10.50 Bidoun Montage: a local programme featuring Kuwaiti personalities. Presented by Mubarak Al Omair

11.30 News Summary
11.35 World News via Satellite
12.15 Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 -The Enchanted House: cartoons
6.30 New Animal World
7.00 For the Record
8.00 News in English
8.30 You and the Law: local programme
8.40 Bridges to Cross: "Keepers of the Flame". A journalist finds evidence of a plot to kill several people involved in a terrorist case.
9.30 Mary: Frank and Mary argue about gambling.
10.00 Cine Club: "Courage". Thriller about a trio of marathon runners taken prisoner by a citizen army in the new Mexico desert.
12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Aualite/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.



Oscar, a portrait of destruction

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Sultan Gallery
Exhibition of Prisse D'Avenues 1/Art Arab (1872) from Dec 15, 9 am to 1 pm and 5 to 8 pm, at the Sultan Gallery, Al Soor St.

Free Atelier
Over 90 paintings by Palestinian artist Mohammad Boushnaq are on show at the Free Atelier Gallery, Arabian Gulf St. The show has been organised by the Kuwait Society for Formative Arts. Open daily from 8.30 am to 12 noon and 4 to 7 pm, until Dec 22.

SOCIAL

Children's Party
Children's Party will be held at Messilah beach Hotel on Dec 17, 3 pm. Fancy dress and many festive games.

Malayalee Drama
Vishwaharati Theatre, Abhasia, will present a Malayalee Drama, written by Thomas Perumpilly, on Dec 25, at the Indian Embassy auditorium.

Software Exhibition
The British Council, Mansouriya, will hold an exhibition of books and software "Science and Maths through Microcomputers" from 9 am to 12 noon and 5 to 8 pm, until Dec 17.

Victory Day
A flag hoisting ceremony will be held at the Bangladesh Embassy, Jahriya, on Dec 16 at 9 am to mark Victory Day. All Bangladeshis are requested to attend.

The Bangladesh Association will hold a cultural evening on Dec 18 at 5.30 pm at the auditorium of the Sharq Cooperative Society to celebrate Victory Day. All are welcome.

Mooda and Melody
"Passage to Music Time" is the title of a concert of Hindi, Malayalam and Tamil film songs, which will be presented by Mooda and Melody at the Labour Union Hall on Dec 18, 5.30 pm. Tel: 4338579 for details.

K.O.S.A.
Kuwait Offshore Sailing Association (K.O.S.A.) will hold their re-scheduled annual general meeting on Tuesday, Dec 15, at the Fahad Sea Club. Registration begins at 1930 hours in the sailing room. For details phone David Clark 4845171 (office) or 3942576 (home).

ASK Alumni Dinner
Friends and graduates of the American School, Kuwait, will hold an alumni dinner at Regency Palace Hotel, on Jan 3. The Arabic buffet will begin at 8 pm. For details phone Mrs Suzy Jones — 5314568.

Weekend Club

The Weekend Club will host "Countdown with Rothmans" at the Regency Palace Hotel on New Year's Eve with two of Kuwait's popular bands in attendance. Highlights will be the selection of the couple of the year. Contact: Raveen — 2401804.

Hash House Harriers
Annual festive get-together on Dec 16, Wednesday, 7.45 pm for 8 pm. For reservations contact Hash secretary — 3949848; 3942453.

HOTELS

At the Sheraton
Enjoy Italian cuisine in the Riccardo Restaurant in the evening, with music by the Moonlight Duo.

Dine in the Hunt Room with live music by the gypsy band, Camerata. For lunch, Hunt Room offers a la carte.

At the Holiday Inn
Al Dana features special businessmen's lunch offering Arabic or European main course, sweet and salad buffet and tea or coffee.

At the Meridien
Versailles is open for lunch and dinner offering a selection of continental cuisine; a selection of meats and seafood charcoal grilled to perfection; plus an affordable business lunch with three choices.

Al Waha in the Salhia Complex is a convenient meeting place in town offering food and beverage service.

At the Hilton
Failaka on the 19th floor offers a speciality menu featuring a carefully selected dishes; a whole range of chef's recommendations ranging from appetisers to desserts are also featured. Open daily, except Friday, for lunch and dinner.

At the SAS
Experience the exotic charm of the Orient at the Sahrat Al Khema night, held every Tuesday from 7.00 pm, in the SAS Hotel's The Tent. The Arabian Bazaar features perfumes, jewellery, clothes and rugs; buffet dinner and live music.

SPORTS

Kuwait Nomads Rugby Club
Tuesday: Chairman's XV vs Captain's XV. Kickoff at 7 pm, all players at the ground by 6.45 pm.
Thursday: Christmas Fancy Dress Party. For details phone Ron Hughes — 5630113.

Pre-Christmas bowling games
Three pre-Christmas bowling games will be held at Bowl Club, Silver Tower on Thursday 6.30 pm and Friday (4.30 pm). For registration (men and women) contact Manny Inserto at 300 Club, behind US Embassy. Last date for registration is Dec 16.

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Ameen Pharmacy
Bebbehani Bldg., Jaber Al Mubarak St.
Al Ghazwa Pharmacy
Kazemi Bldg., Khalid Bin Al Walid St.

Hawalli and Nagra
Al Haditha Pharmacy
Othman Complex, Bin Khalid St., Nagra

Salmiya and Rumaythiya
Al Shifa Pharmacy
Anjari Complex, Salem Al Mubarak St.

Fahadheel and Ahmadi
Al Badiya Pharmacy
Mohammad Jassim Dabbous Bldg., Dabbous St., F'heel.

Jleeb Al Shiyoookh
Al Salamah Pharmacy
Main St.

Jahra
Al Zahra Pharmacy
New Market

CINEMA

Al Andalus
Carioca Tiger
Starring: Michel Colby

Al Salmiya
Choose Me
Starring: Genieve Bujold, Keith Carradine

Al Hamra
Al Beit Al Mal'oun (Arabie)
Starring: Mageda Al Khatib, Kamal Shinnawi, Samir Sabri

Drive-In
Laa'nat Al Maal (Arabie)
Starring: Hatem Zulficar, Imaan, Yusuf Shabaan

Al Firdous
Mazloom (Hindi)
Starring: Suresh Oberoi, Anita Raj, Mandakani

Fahadheel Open-Air
Tarkeeb (Hindi)

Ahmadi Drive-In
Li'adam Kifayah Al Ulaa (Arabie)

Al Fahadheel
Up from the Depth

Al Jahra
Prem Kahani (Hindi)

Granada
Adiverukal (Malayalam)

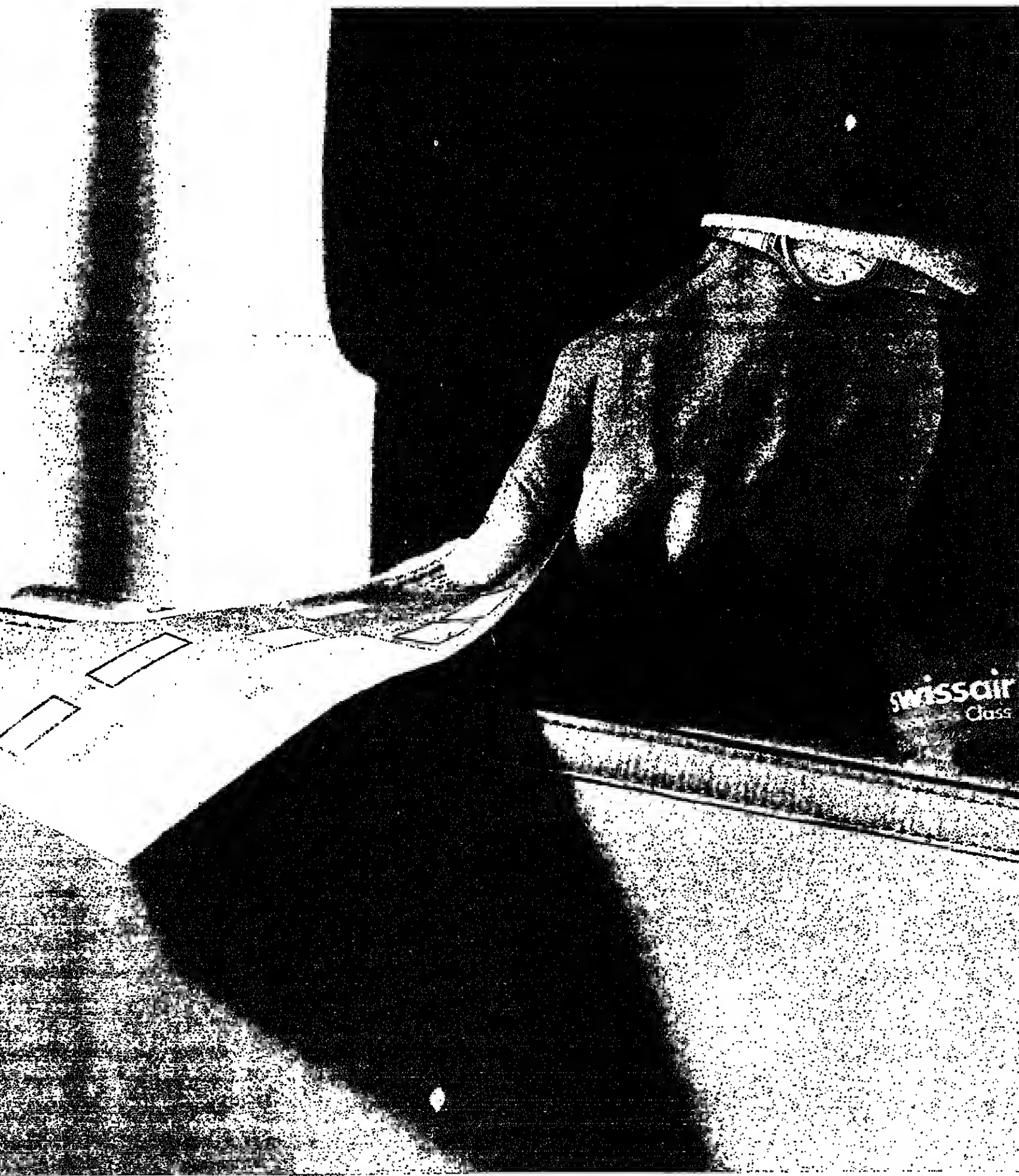
Sulabikhat
They Call Him Trinity

Al Jleeb
Sidatru (Bengali)

PRAYERS

Fajr	5.11 am
Zuhr	11.43
Asr	2.33 pm
Maghrib	4.52
Isha	6.14

If you have to postpone an appointment, it helps to have friends in high places.



It's a fact of business life that everything doesn't always run according to schedule. A negotiation that lasts longer than expected, for example, or a postponed meeting can throw your plans totally out of whack. That's why it's so important for business people to fly Swissair's Business Class. Because cancelling, changing or booking new flights can be made easily and on short notice. You see, in order to keep you on the right track, we're happy to be flexible. After all, what are friends for?

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

THE strongest man upon earth is he who stands alone
— Henrik Ibsen, Norwegian playwright (1828-1906).

OPINION

True revolution of Palestine

THE current popular uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip shows the true face of the Palestinian revolution. This is, indeed, the real fight to restore Palestinian rights and conceivably to restore Palestinian territories. If this had taken place in 1948 there wouldn't have been an Israel at all.

The real Palestinian revolution is the revolution of those under occupation who throw stones at the Israeli soldiers and hold sticks to the face of the Israeli machine guns. And if this continues, we can safely say that the Palestinian rights are well on their way to being achieved.

During the past 23 years, the world has witnessed a profitable trade in the name of the Palestinian cause. The world saw the birth of many organisations to carry out blackmail in the name of Palestine and a lot of money has been spent unnecessarily. Billions spent on arms, which instead of being sent to Palestine, were used for infighting among Palestinians outside Palestine.

This is the result of the difference of opinion of how to liberate Palestine. Some want to liberate it from the East, while others want to start from the West.

Palestinians lost huge sums of money, presented to them on a silver platter, on unnecessary political manoeuvres and social appearances, at a time when we saw a popular uprising in the West Bank using stones and sticks against advanced Israeli weapons.

The real revolution is that of the occupied territories. It has been proven over the past 30 years that most of the Palestinian work outside Palestine has been more towards showing off, blackmailing and characterised by sides that kill for money.

Most of the Palestinian actions outside Palestine have no relation to the Palestinian people; some of it is even penetrated by external forces whose primary concern in the Palestinian issue is to distort the reputation of the Palestinian cause, Palestinians, and to divert the Palestinian revolution from fighting for the liberation of Palestine to an organisation for killing.

The revolution of the occupied territories is the true revolution of Palestine. The majority of other groups are penetrated by external forces and some even practise open trading of the Palestinian cause.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

South Korean elections

Church leaders preach neutrality

By Maggie Jackson

SEOUL, (AP): South Korea's influential Christian churches have tried to remain neutral in presidential elections, but many members and some clergy have been quick to take sides.

All segments of the powerful, 10-million-strong Christian community in the nation of 40 million agree on calling for fair and peaceful voting, but have split sharply on the role churches should play.

"Church leaders have tried not to endorse one candidate or another, but want just to have a free election," said a Roman Catholic priest who asked to remain anonymous.

"But still priests and ministers have in fact endorsed candidates," he said. "I don't think it's created divisions in the churches, but it could."

He told of an incident one Sunday when, after hearing a ringing plug for a candidate from the pulpit, a man stood up and told the priest he had come to pray, not hear how to vote.

Disident
He and other clergymen, laymen and church officials interviewed spoke of dissent among church leaders and activists about how they can ensure the candidate most sensitive to human rights will win, yet not be accused of meddling in politics.

Christian activists have played a major role in the struggle for human rights in South Korea against a succession of authoritarian governments.

"The church is together on two points," said Kang Won-Ku, head of education for the Presbyterian church in the Republic of Korea, a 250,000 member Protestant denomination. "We must struggle for a fair election and struggle to get rid of the (current) military dictatorship."

Christians, South Korea's second-largest religious group, have long exerted influence outweighing their numbers here. They have had more impact than the larger but divided Buddhist community. For centuries, Buddhism had been the dominant religion in Korea.

Church statements, clergy hunger strikers and lay dissenters joined the political opposition in calling for fair elections and other concessions, forcing President Chun Doo-Hwan in June to agree to the country's

first direct presidential elections in 16 years. The vote Dec 16 will determine a successor to Chun when he steps down Feb 25.

Most Christians reportedly support an opposition candidate — either Kim Young-Sam, a Presbyterian church elder, or Kim Dae-Jung, a Catholic — for president, a recent poll said.

According to a Nov. 27-29 survey by the private Ecumenical Christian Institute for the study of justice and development, 32 per cent of Protestants would vote for Kim Young-Sam, nearly 34 per cent favoured Kim Dae-Jung and 11 per cent supported the ruling party's candidate Roh Tae-Woo.

Nearly 36 per cent of Catholics polled supported Kim Dae-Jung, a once-exiled dissident, while one-quarter favoured Kim Young-Sam, who portrays himself as a centrist and a devout Christian. About 12 per cent support Roh.

Kim Young-Sam has emphasised his religion during the campaign, saying, "I expect to receive very strong Christian support, especially from my Christian brothers."

Kim Dae-Jung has not treated his religion as a major issue. But many church leaders who support democratic reforms have argued against backing individual candidates.

Lee Myun-Joo, executive secretary of the 1-million-member Methodist church, said "the best way to stop the military government is to have a neutral stance between the candidates."

Neutral
Still, he said many Methodist ministers were publicly supporting candidates and five Methodist bishops this month had sent pastoral letters asking the clergy to remain neutral.

The Presbyterian church in Korea, also issued letters intended to be read from the pulpit saying voters must get rid of the military government — in other words, vote for the opposition, said Kang.

But Kang defends the actions. "Of course we have to leave to the individual who they actually will vote for, but the church needs to give some guidance as to what they should look for in a candidate."

"People forget the past awfully fast... it's right and necessary for the church to help people decide," he said.

American-style election campaign in France

Clash between the Florentine, Bulldozer and Turtle

By William Echikson

PARIS: Forget ideas, platforms or programmes. As campaigning for May's French presidential election gets underway, the contest is turning into an American-politics style personality clash between the Florentine, the Bulldozer and the Turtle.

The Florentine, wily and cunning, is Socialist President Francois Mitterrand, a preeminent master of political nuance.

The bulldozer is conservative Prime Minister Jacques Chirac, a dynamic and resourceful man who loves to plow down his opponents with frontal attacks.

The Turtle is former Prime Minister Raymond Barre, a round economics professor, steady and solid, if a bit heavy and slow-footed.

This focus on personalities promises the French a new style of election in May 1988, their first without a dramatic ideological confrontation. Past elections offered a clear choice between

"capitalism" and "socialism" and between right-wing "grandeur" and left-wing "moralism."

This fiery rhetoric of class warfare, reflected a society divided between arrogant bourgeoisie and angry, impoverished workers. But such divisions now are historical footnotes. Workers who drive Renaults, vacation on the Cote d'Azur, and own stock don't want to hear about revolution. Mitterrand's Socialist Party has responded by dulling its Marxist edges.

"You call it socialist, our Socialist Party?" asks Alain Duhamel, a political analyst. "Socialists no longer talk about breaking with capitalism."

Changing
The Conservatives also are changing. Today's salaried white-collar executive coexists peacefully with his workers. Like them, he drives a Renault, vacations on the Cote d'Azur, and owns stock. Even before the stock crash, Chirac's neo-Gaullist Party had begun to try to and

reassure the dominant middle-class voters by reemphasising the party's traditional pragmatic paternalism.

"Chirac has passed from pure Reaganism to Thatcherism, and now he is sliding back to the old French habits," says Denis Jeambar, a political analyst at the new weekly Le Pont. "France is putting ideology into hibernation." Ideologies still exist of course, but they are increasingly squeezed toward the fringes. The Communist Party once won a quarter of the vote. Today, it draws less than 10 per cent and has split into two warring factions, each of which plans to put forward its own candidate.

On the extreme right, the National Front attracts the unemployed and uprooted with its anti-immigrant stance. But it remains a one-issue party, widely popular in a city such as Marseilles, where long-time residents have come to resent a recent, large immigrant population.

A huge middle group — some

80 per cent of the electorate, in fact — agrees on the essentials. On defence, all major parties support France's independent nuclear force, its ties to the Atlantic Alliance, and its close relationship with West Germany. On economics, all the parties agree on reduction of state involvement in the economy and the preservation of the welfare system and worker's rights.

Money
To this election season, the political questions focus on money. Did former Socialist minister Christian Nucci misuse public funds? Did the Socialist Party skim money from arms sales to Iran? Did present Gaullist minister Alain Chalandon illegally keep money with the convicted Chaumet jewellers?

"Finished, the old battle of ideas, the platforms, the programmes," commented the newsweekly L'Express. "Politics this autumn in France are nothing more than the exchange of invectives."

In the polls, the 71-year-old Mitterrand's rating now stands at an all-time high. And since his popularity depends on staying above the fray, Mitterrand is playing coy about his intentions. He plans to decide only in February whether to be a candidate. Most observers think, though, the President will run. Without him, the Socialist Party would find itself in disarray, held down by the conflicting ambitions of moderate Michel Rocard, technocrat Laurent Fabius, and radical Jean-Pierre Chevènement.

Francois Mitterrand is invaluable in the art of transforming retreats into victory," says Duhamel. "The Socialists' only hope is to forget the old ideological recipes and to avoid controversy."

Chirac's main asset is his relative youth — he is 53. Chirac is a man of immense energy, charming in private, but stiff in public. His "bulldozer" character has not suited him well in his

relations with the Socialist President too often, he has pushed his reforms too fast, too far, prompting strikes and student protests, and splitting his party over tightening citizenship requirements for immigrants.

"Chirac, in his political career, has been better at the blitzkrieg than at sieges," writes Harvard Professor Stanley Hoffmann. "Finesse, cunning, bargaining with parliamentarians were never his strong qualities."

Chirac needs these qualities not just to combat Mitterrand, but also fellow conservative Barre.

As prime minister during the 1970s, Barre earned the title "the best economist in France" and a reputation for telling the truth, even at the price of popularity.

Many complain about Barre's professional tendency to lecture the public. But in an era of economic uncertainty, French voters may indeed opt for his technocratic candidity. The Christian Science Monitor.



US presidential candidates seeking new economic gurus

By Craig Webb

NEW YORK, (UPI): America seems to have run out of economic gurus for this presidential campaign season.

Eight years ago, Ronald Reagan wooed the presidency in part by promoting the supply-side economic theories of a Californian named Arthur Laffer. His idea of cutting taxes to spur economic growth proved so enticing that as soon as Reagan won the presidency he started pushing Congress to trim tax rates.

Reagan and Laffer saw their wish come true in 1981. Then the Reagan administration watched the government's deficit double, while support for supply-side economics crumbled with the stock market.

Today, nearly all the major presidential candidates campaigning in next month's Iowa caucus regularly call Reagan's policies "voodoo economics," conjuring up the epithet Vice President George Bush applied to Reagan's Laffer-flavoured ideas in 1980.

Even Rep. Jack Kemp, Republican-New York, and Laffer's original champion, no longer uses him to defend supply-side thinking.

Ironically, the only candidate who listens to Laffer these days is Bush.

Laffer's declining influence leaves America without an econ-

omic guru whose ideas will dominate the 1988 campaign.

Instead, dozens of people are whispering into candidates' ears, usually with proposals that may lack the pizzazz of supply-side economics but also avoid its hazards.

That trend cheers Robert Reich, a Harvard University lecturer who has helped Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis and Sen. Albert Gore, Democrat-Tennessee.

Suspicious
"I would be suspicious of quick fixes, like Laffer curves, that can be drawn on the backs of napkins," he said.

The candidates appear to be equally suspicious of linking themselves singularly to any one economist.

Spokesmen for four of the 12 major party candidates refused to name their economic advisers, while some of the others named so many people it would seem impossible to get a consensus from the group.

"I can't say there's a kitchen cabinet of any two or three that he relies on," said Dan Mariashin, a spokesman for Republican candidate Alexander Haig. "Basically he draws his own conclusions on economic matters."

Laffer, who has said the tax cuts were only a partial application of his theories, said that whatever ideas he passed along by economists are certain to be tempered by the past eight years.

"I don't think you're going to find anyone going against the supply-side agenda," he said. "You'll find nit-picking about the deficit, but nobody talking about raising tax rates or increasing government spending."

Although Laffer chose to help one person, Reich counsels several presidential hopefuls.

Pat Choate of TRW Inc talks to Gore, Sen. Paul Simon, Democrat-Illinois, and former Arizona Gov. Bruce Babbitt.

William Niskanen of the Cato Institute, a Washington think tank, said he has conferred with all the GOP contenders and a couple of Democrats as well.

Many of the advisers work at research groups such as the Brookings Institutions or Heritage Foundation, places Niskanen called "governments in exile" because they often hire politicians who are out of power or favour and are biding their time until a more favourable administration takes office.

Brookings' Alice Rivlin helps Simon and Gore, for example, while former Delaware Gov. Pierre du Pont has called in whole groups from Heritage, Cato and the Hudson Institutes for brainstorming sessions.

"Most of us are in this business because we want to change econ-

omic policy or policy in general," Niskanen said. "This is one of the conduits we use — one of the more efficient conduits if we can get people to listen to us."

One of the major exceptions to the think tank-academic bloc is found in the Jesse Jackson camp, which has recruited Carol O'Clairacain, an economist for a New York district of the American Federation of state, county and municipal employees.

Choate said the help economic advisers give depends on the time of year.

"At the starting point, each of these people will think about the big-picture stuff," he said. "This is before they're declared and go into major campaigns. As you move closer to Iowa and the debates, the questions get much more specific. . . . You play a sounding board, interact back and forth and talk about ways to express ideas."

"I don't raise issues unless I have an answer," O'Clairacain said.

Selling
But in selling ideas, some economists claim that other advisers really are selling themselves as future administration officials, often when they don't merit the job.

"People like Robert Reich obviously are jockeying," said Paul Craig Roberts, a former Treasury Department executive and an economist at Georgetown University. "Academics look around for ideological candidates they could rise to power."

"Many academic economists, they really don't want anything to do with Washington," he continued. "They don't want the responsibility. People who spend their mature life dealing with students, to have to come down and take a real responsibility is frightening."

Replied Reich: "Those who live in glass houses should be careful of the boulders they throw. I spent almost 10 years in Washington working in the Justice Department and the Federal Trade Commission."

Asked if he would take a job at Harvard, Reich said, "it would depend on who who and what she wanted me to do."

"Economists by and large are unemployable (in government), so you never know what their motives are for giving advice," Choate said.

Proffering advice in exchange for a job in Washington seems a risky proposition. Laffer did not join the administration when Reagan took office, and more than one economist has pointed out that one of Reagan's most important money men — Treasury Secretary James Baker — is a Texas lawyer.

African drought creeps into Egypt

By Wadie Kirolos

CAIRO, (UPI): Egypt, once described as the "gift of the river Nile," is hearing the footsteps of the African drought.

The Nile has its sources in Central and Eastern Africa, where the annual volume of rainfall has dwindled sharply during the past eight years, causing famine and starvation in Ethiopia and the Sudan.

The Soviet-built Aswan High Dam, which holds behind its gigantic wall one of the world's largest man-made lakes with its billions of cubic metres of water, once saved Egypt from drought's ravages.

But the volume of water in the lake has shrunk by an alarming proportion, experts say, posing new, dire threats to the irrigation of crops and the generation of power from the dam's turbines, which produce about 22 per cent of Egypt's electricity.

The alarm has been sounded by irrigation experts for the past two years, but the government insisted all along that Egypt was

not in imminent danger.

On Nov 27, however, Ahmed Baha Eddin, an influential columnist for the daily Al Ahram, called attention to an analysis of Egypt's water supplies by Sir Murdoch MacDonald and Partners, a British consulting firm, which forced the government to concede for the first time that the danger is inching toward Egypt and that officials are taking action.

Fall
Citing the report, Baha Eddin asserted the drought had caused the volume of water behind the dam to fall sharply to 17 billion cubic metres. Egypt's annual requirements amount to 55 billion. The danger of the dam's turbines grinding to a halt was also not excluded.

Issam Radi, the Egyptian minister of water resources, insisted that the picture was not so bleak. He said the lake contained 48.5 billion cubic metres of water — definitely below average but enough to meet the nation's requirements.

He said the water level was 518

feet (158 m) — also below average — but enough to keep the dam turbines running.

Even if the level fell to 482 feet (147 m) — which he deemed very unlikely — Egypt could continue to draw water from the lake, he said. But the turbines, he conceded, would not work.

"I stress that the measures we are taking now and in the future will spare us this problem, although the drought has continued for nine years — which is unprecedented for the past millennium," Radi said.

Among the measures the government is taking, Radi said, is a plan to conserve about 5 billion cubic metres of irrigation water, or about 20 per cent of the reservoir's total volume, by introducing improved irrigation methods.

These include encasing the bed and banks of irrigation canals and replacing some of them with pipes. But the government, he said, cannot use drip and sprinkle irrigation methods extensively in the Nile valley and delta

— although they are used in desert reclamation projects — because land ownership is fragmented and they are too costly.

The government also is planning to purify and re-use a larger portion of irrigation water that now goes to waste in drainage canals. Radi hopes the volume of re-used drainage water will be doubled to seven billion cubic metres over the next five years.

He acknowledged that the Nile annually pours 4 billion cubic metres of unused water into the Mediterranean, but said the government was working to cut this amount in half by building more barrages on the river and conserving some of the water in natural lakes formed in the Nile delta.

In his column, Baha Eddin also took the government to task for keeping the public in the dark concerning the water situation.

"The public was not informed of the crisis, so that it might have forewarned its indiscipline and casual attitude and taken government conservation measures seriously," he wrote.

Alfonsin's star dips in his fourth year

By Daniel Drosdoff

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, (UPI): President Raul Alfonsin wanted to hand over the ceremonial presidential sash to his successor in 1989 in a new capital, in underdeveloped Patagonia, that would be a monument to his ability to get things done.

When asked about that desire recently, Alfonsin replied wryly, "well, maybe it will be a tent."

The answer reflected the sober realism with which he and other members of his government view the remaining two years of his six-year term.

The heady days of optimism that marked the early years are over for the four-year-old Alfonsin administration, which brought democracy to Argentina on Dec 10, 1983 after seven-and-a-half years of military rule.

In its place is a realisation that most of the problems present in 1983 — especially the economic stagnation, foreign debt, and administrative inefficiency —

are still burdening Argentina and will do so for many years to come.

The project for a new capital, which is stalled for lack of money, is just one of many Alfonsin goals that either may not be met or be delayed.

Inflation, which this year is running at a rate of 178 per cent, is far from being brought under control despite several economic packages designed to rein in the cost of living.

Instead of raising real wages as he hoped, Alfonsin has had to adopt several economic austerity plans, dampening wages and expenditures to win financing from the International Monetary Fund and international private banks to service the country's \$53 billion foreign debt.

Alfonsin has ruled through tolerance and compromise, trying to give something for everybody in the spirit of democracy and freedom. Yet there are not enough resources to go around, and he is taking a

hattering on all sides, from businessmen opposing taxes to labour unions demanding wage hikes.

The government's most dangerous potential political enemy, the armed forces, bared its teeth this year in bloodless uprisings during Easter week at two bases.

Quelled
The mutinies were quelled peacefully but not without a political price: Alfonsin was forced to grant middle grade officers an amnesty for human rights crimes committed in the 1970s, when 9,000 persons disappeared after their capture by security forces.

The amnesty infuriated human rights groups, and on the day of his fourth anniversary in office the streets of downtown Buenos Aires were plastered with wall posters put up by the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, a militant human rights organisation, showing Alfonsin's portrait beside that of an Army general's and saying, "Down with civilian-military authoritarianism."

The most stinging rebuff to the President came on Sept 6, when Alfonsin's radical Civic Union party suffered a humiliating defeat in mid-term elections and lost control of the chamber of deputies.

"He took it very personally," commented a diplomat. "He was wounded."

Policies
The diplomat said that Alfonsin's economic policies, which have already cost him much of his popularity, have not measured up to the country's needs.

He said to gain foreign investor confidence Argentina must slash the labour force of money-losing state companies, such as the railroads, oil company, electrical company and other public utilities.

"The government hasn't done what it has to do," the diplomat said. "It does not want to pay the political price. We can see the administration is foundering a little bit."

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1535 — English envoys press for alliance between King Henry VIII and Protestant princes in Germany.
- 1711 — Plague breaks out in Copenhagen.
- 1719 — Cardinal Alberoni is banished by Philip V in Spain.
- 1745 — Prussians under Leopold Von Dessau defeat Saxons at Kesseldorf.
- 1791 — Sweden's King Gustavus III offers to head crusade against France.
- 1806 — Napoleon Bonaparte enters Warsaw, Poland.
- 1916 — French defeat Germans in World War I battle of Verdun.
- 1952 — China rejects Indian plan for Korean armistice.
- 1957 — United Nations rejects Greek proposal that Cyprus is entitled to self-determination.
- 1961 — Former Nazi Adolf Eichmann is sentenced to death in occupied Jerusalem.
- 1965 — US Mariner spacecraft relays back data about Venus as it flies past that planet.
- 1970 — Soviet spacecraft starts sending back messages from planet Venus.
- 1979 — Deposed Shah of Iran flies from United States to "temporary" exile in Panama.
- 1985 — Street battles break out in Johannesburg, South Africa, between police and anti-apartheid crowd demanding freedom for Nelson Mandela.
- 1986 — Rival ethnic groups battle in Karachi and set hundreds of homes and shops ablaze in city's worst rioting since Pakistani independence 39 years before.

هكذا من الأمل

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Share crisis likely to bring funds to Gulf

BAHRAIN, Dec. 14, (Reuters): Investors from the Gulf who lost out to the slump on world stock markets are likely to bring their money home, boosting investment in the region, a leading bank predicted in a report today.

Improved economic prospects locally and increasingly competitive returns on capital had lessened a traditional outflow of funds from the Gulf, economist Henry Azzam of the Bahrain-based Gulf International Bank said.

He said many investors turned in the stock market crash "undoubtedly put the blame on the international security houses with whom they were dealing."

Services

Borrowers and investors in the Gulf would now look to local financial institutions, especially those highly capitalised, to provide their financial services, he said.

Gulf nationals were basically conservative and would now become even more so. "They will feel more comfortable with their money invested in a familiar environment where there is no foreign exchange risk and no taxes," he said.

But Azzam added that Gulf oil revenues would drop if the share market slump brought a slowdown in the US and world economies. A falling dollar — the currency in which most oil is priced — would also hurt local economies.

Canadian team joins Jordan's oil search

AMMAN, Dec. 14, (Reuters): A Canadian oil team will start collecting seismic data for Jordan next month in a joint search for oil near the Iraqi border, a senior official said today.

Kamal Jureist, director-general of Jordan's Natural Resources Authority, told Reuters a crew provided by the Petro Canada International Assistance Corporation (PCTIAC) would operate in the Rishah area of northeast Jordan.

PCTIAC is a subsidiary of the state oil company Petro Canada. "According to the geological information, we believe the potential for oil and gas in Jordan is good," Jureist declared.

Survey

The survey is funded under a 19 million Canadian dollar (\$14.5 million) agreement signed with PCTIAC in April for seismic work and technical assistance in data processing.

Jureist said he hoped the project would prompt Canadian oil firms to enter production sharing deals like those signed with the US companies Hunt and Amoco, and Petrofina of Belgium.

Those agreements, signed during the past two years, allow foreign companies exploring for oil to recover their investments if they find commercial deposits.

Consumption

Finance Minister Hanna Odeh said last week oil produced from the small Hamza field covered one per cent of Jordan's energy consumption. A power station was to be built to exploit gas found this year at Al Rishah, he added.

Odeh, presenting the 1988 draft budget to parliament, announced a capital spending allocation of 13.5 million dinars (\$41 million) for the NRA, mainly for oil exploration.

Jordan consumes about three million tonnes a year of crude oil and refined products, mostly from Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

Volcker warns dollar has fallen too far

NEW YORK, Dec. 14, (AP): The dollar has fallen too far, raising the risk of higher inflation in the United States and depressed economies abroad, former Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker said today.

"I think there's too much emphasis on trying to correct the trade situation (with) changes in the dollar and too little on what I see as more fundamental adjustment measures, both in the US and in Europe and Japan," Volcker said in an interview in Tokyo on an ABC news programme, "The Tokyo Forum."

Volcker said Japan has taken some "very promising steps" toward redirecting its economy to rely on internal growth instead of exports, but he said West Germany has not done enough because of a "little excessive" fear of inflation.

Why did it take so long?

Gold goes above \$500 an ounce

LONDON, Dec. 14, (Reuters): Gold, quoted above \$500 an ounce today for the first time since February 1983, has disappointed its fans lately.

By all the rules, it should have shot above that symbolic value when stock markets crashed on Black Monday, October 19.

The old adage has it that times of stress stampede investors into the additional safe haven of bullion. But in the event, it has taken two months and an eight per cent drop since Black Monday in the dollar's value to get gold to creep slowly up from \$480 then to \$500 now.

Push

"Certain people want to push gold over \$500, but producers step in whenever it gets close," said a Swiss bank trader.

Besides producers selling into any rally, dealers also offer other reasons for gold's slow climb — and its failure to climb at all against strong currencies.

Investors, it is suggested, sold gold to cover positions in the crashing stock markets. Gold has always been seen as a hedge against inflation, while in the present crisis the big worry, at least until now, has been about a slump.

Producers

The world's leading gold producers include South Africa, the Soviet Union, the United States, Canada and Australia.

Although gold has been slow to rise in the crash of '87, those

Also, the political climate looks less tense. Gold peaked at \$850 early in 1980 at the height of the crisis over the American hostages held in the US Embassy in Tehran.

Even so, some of gold's supporters now say that, with the dollar at historic lows and the outlook for the global economy clouded, there are prospects that, now \$500 has been breached, the price might take off.

"We have a window of opportunity in the gold price and gold is going to be the main feature of the next three or four months," said Michael Coulson, a gold analyst with Kincal and Aitken in London.

Man has always coveted gold for its purity, its beauty and its permanence. These days gold coins are not common currency, but a piece of gold can be still be traded anywhere in the world. Refugees fleeing their homelands know that gold is one of the best portable stores of wealth.

Flight

Doubts about the effectiveness of United States efforts to reduce its budget and trade deficits are the chief reason for the flight to gold, analysts said. People are uncertain what is going to happen, but expect bad news.

"We are heading for the sort of crisis that is very good for gold," said Coulson.

While the US government feared a recession is just round

the corner, he said, stock and gold markets were beginning to fear inflation. Japan and Germany are pumping up their economies and investors do not believe the US government will take the tough decisions needed to put its own house in order, he said.

"The government needs to accept that the US has been growing too fast, but the US is absolutely paranoid about a slowdown."

Another reason why the analysts feel a rise in the price of gold is justifiable is that the metal has in fact lost buying power in terms of other major currencies.

The last time gold was priced at \$500 was in February 1983. But a dollar then was worth about 230 yen and 2.40 marks. A pound sterling was worth \$1.50. Now a dollar is worth about 128 yen and 1.60 marks. A pound is worth \$1.80.

It took more yen, marks, francs and pounds to buy an ounce of gold in February 1983 than it does now.

But if gold is performing its main function as a store of value it should be possible to buy the same amount with it at any time. Baring explains it this way.

Japan is enjoying broadbased recovery

TOKYO, Dec. 14, (Reuters): A year ago, the mighty exporting companies that drive Japan's economic engine were screaming in protest.

The skyrocketing value of the yen had cut manufacturers' profits by 30 per cent and was making it difficult to sell Japanese products abroad. Companies announced plans to trim their work forces and cut costs by any means. The Japanese economy was in a deepening slump.

But today, as the yen reaches new highs against the dollar, Japanese corporate officials are calm.

Confidence

"To the past, everyone the yen went up, they cried 'I give up'," says Toshishige Namai, an editor of the leading economic journal *Toyo Keizai* (Oriental Economist). "But now they have confidence."

Economic analysts here see several sources for this assurance.

— Japan's domestic economy is enjoying a broad-based recovery, which has boosted the home-market sales of major exporters like auto and electronics producers, compensating for still dropping exports.

— Cost-cutting measures and rationalisation of production have taken effect. Japanese firms are emerging leaner and meaner from the currency crisis.

— Japanese exporters have changed sales tactics overseas, shifting to higher-priced products which bring higher profits per item.

— Exporters are implementing longer-term strategies of shifting production facilities overseas, particularly to the US, to escape the effect of the high yen.

At Matsushita Electric, all of these factors are combining to brighten the outlook. The company anticipates a 7 per cent gain in profits in the fiscal year ending March 31, 1988. The profits are coming largely from domestic sales, which are projected to rise 11 per cent. Export sales are falling by 6 per cent compared to the previous year.

Aiming

"We are aiming to reduce costs by 10 per cent and introducing new products, involving more high technologies, to compete in

Japan," explains a company spokesman.

Like other companies producing consumer products, Matsushita has been benefiting from a boom in consumer spending and construction, particularly of private housing.

Matsushita factories are rolling out new items as electric breadmakers for the home, along with traditional VCRs, televisions and stereo hi-fi sets sold under the National and Panasonic brand names.

Overall the electronics industry is looking to the domestic market for its sales. The export component to consumer electronics has gone from about 70 per cent in the late 1970s to 30 per cent now, says David Gerstenhaber, an economist at Morgan Stanley International Ltd. in Tokyo.

At the same time, companies like Matsushita are hedging against the yen rise by moving production facilities overseas.

The company currently has 57 factories operating in 28 countries worldwide. The production from overseas plants represents

11 per cent of Matsushita's sales, and the company aims to boost that to 25 per cent in the future.

In general, comments Gerstenhaber, Japanese companies "are dramatically expanding the ratio of overseas production to overseas sales. The gains they've made in doing this are extraordinary."

He points to the example of the auto industry, which didn't produce a single car overseas in 1979 and will be manufacturing 2 million cars abroad by 1990.

Profitable

"There was no reason to do it while the yen was weak because it was more profitable to do it at home," he notes.

The Japanese consumer is also responsible for the turnaround of the auto industry. According to the Japan Automobile Manufacturers' Association, October domestic sales of vehicles rose 3.5 per cent for the fifth straight month. Exports, in contrast, suffered their ninth consecutive monthly drop.

The Christian Science Monitor.

ABC opts for AFS gold card

ARAB Banking Corporation has decided to provide its executive staff and other frequent business travellers with the new payment card issued to corporations by Arah Financial Services.

Over 50 AFS Gold Cards will be acquired by ABC as a result of a contract signed by AFS following the card launch in October.

Milad Larady, vice-president, Personnel and Administration Department, Arab Banking Corporation said the AFS Gold Card being issued in the Visa format is a major attraction.

The card is accepted by more than 5 million merchants worldwide. It entitles the holder to withdraw cash from 55,000 bank

branches and from 20,000 automatic teller machines.

"Initially we are watching closely to see the effectiveness of the support system for the AFS Gold Card. AFS's billing and management analysis capabilities will be helpful for ABC since the system provides a thorough breakdown of usage — by expense type, geographical area, department and cost centre," says Milad Larady.

Advantages

Larady continued: "ABC has concluded there are obvious advantages in acquiring the AFS card since we are dealing with a local institution which should mean quicker response to enquiries."

NBK weekly market review

Ballooning trade deficit makes waves

THE major news to hit the markets this week was the increase in the US trade deficit to a record high of \$17.63 billion in October. The US unit which had been drifting lower over the past week against all the European currencies, dropped by more than 2 pfennigs and 3 yen shortly on the news of the far worse than expected trade figures. Modest intervention by the Fed and some of the European banks aimed at reducing the scale of volatility had minimal effect.

Although it was anticipated that the deficit might deteriorate to some degree due to various factors (mainly increased import growth, notably oil), market expectations were more in the region of \$14-\$15 billion. Hopes therefore for solid evidence of a declining trend have been totally obliterated.

Data

US merchandise trade up to \$17.63 billion in October from \$14.08 billion in September, which compares with a deficit of \$14.71 billion in October 1986. Imports have increased to a record \$39.38 billion (12.3 per cent) from \$35.06 billion and exports rose \$21.75 billion (3.6 per cent) from \$20.99 billion. The ten-month trade deficit totals \$145.79 billion from \$138.16 billion for the same period in

1986.

The annualised figure is running at \$175 billion compared with the record \$156.2 billion output deficit last year.

US retail sales rose 0.2 per cent in November, ie \$210 million to \$123.86 billion after allowing for seasonal adjustment. This was slightly lower than the 0.3 per cent anticipated in the market forecast.

Whilst the trade figures can certainly be considered abysmal, some qualifications are probably necessary which would imply that a recurrence of the figure is unlikely. US trade figures are not seasonally adjusted.

Traditionally high October imports were exacerbated by a surge in car imports from Japan, in an attempt to increase the number of vehicles permitted under the "voluntary" import restriction of 1988, which is dependent on 1987 shipments — a sharp increase in oil inventories was also responsible.

Trends

Therefore, whilst future trade numbers can be expected lower, the long-awaited turnaround will still be some time in coming. A worrying factor is that despite a shift in volume trends, with exports expanding by 10.6 per cent the correction has yet to be translated into value terms,

directly reflecting a deterioration in the terms of trade brought about by the lower value of the dollar.

The dollar will continue to remain extremely vulnerable to nervous market sentiment; trading ranges for this week are expected to be as follows: DM1.60-1.65, yen 130-135 and £1.80-1.85. Should industrial production and housing starts come in very weak, feeling may be that the administration will re-establish its performance for a lower dollar pushing the US unit below DM1.60 and 130 yen.

Buoyant

US economic growth appears currently to be relatively more buoyant than market expectations. Industrial production and housing start numbers should provide further indication of trends in the aftermath of the market collapse. Provided numbers are as forecast, stronger monetary growth may therefore take precedence to policy formation, implying the tightening in interest rates continuing towards year-end. However before any significant action is taken, the administration is probably going to adopt a "wait and see" policy with the lags of the stock market crash taking time to filter through. Therefore, we do not anticipate a sustained upward

Lebanon gets EEC aid

BRUSSELS, Dec. 14, (Reuters): The European Economic Community (EEC) executive commission said today it was giving over \$2.5 million towards a United Nations appeal for aid to people in Lebanon.

UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar recently made an urgent call for help for the population of Lebanon, which faces economic collapse after 12 years of civil war.

The commission said in a statement it would give two million European currency units to five aid organisations to provide food, clothing and other necessities.

Second oil refinery

ABU DHABI, Dec. 14, (Opecna): North Yemen Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister Ahmed Al Muhani said in an interview published here that his country was studying the possibility of setting up a second strategic oil refinery to handle oil extracted from its new fields.

He said North Yemen would not make oil-for-goods barter deals but sell on the spot market.

Petrochemicals

Hurled out the likelihood of a petrochemical industry being set up in the country, saying sufficient quantities of petrochemicals were being produced in the Gulf region and it would not be in the interest of North Yemen to have its own manufacturing facility.

"In the restructuring now taking place, few if any will survive," warned the report. On December 8, BP acquired a 14.9 per cent interest in Britoil in a surprise move. It plans to increase this to 29.9 per cent.

On December 11 the US company Arco took 7.7 per cent of Britoil, saying it intended to make a tender offer for 29.9 per cent in the same way as BP.

Wanted

Experienced persons to work in sandwich shop, preferably with valid Municipality Health Card and transferable residence. Attractive salary. Contact Zehra, 3624050-2401165, 8 am - 12.30 pm.

Wanted

1. Secretary
2. Traditional masons and assistants.
Only transferable residence permit holders contact Al Salam Complex, 2nd Floor, Office No. 2, Jubeil Al Shiyookh. Tel: 4310605

REQUIRED

A leading company requires a full-time DRIVER. Must have a transferable residence. Call tel. 2448246.

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World Business Summary

Royal Jordanian projects '87 profit

AMMAN, Dec. 14, (AP): The chairman of the Royal Jordanian Airline said today the state-run company expects a 1.7 million dinar (\$5.1 million) profit for 1987, and plans new routes soon to Miami and Montreal. Ali Ghandour told a news conference that the profits came on expected revenues of 122 million dinars (\$366 million). Final figures are generally released in June. Passenger traffic increased by about 8 per cent over 1986, reaching 1.2 million, with the largest growth — of 12 per cent — on the airline's flights to North America, where it serves New York, Chicago and Los Angeles. Ghandour said Royal Jordanian expected to start serving Miami by April, and to Montreal at an undisclosed point. The airline, which changed its name from Alia at the start of 1987, is gradually selling shares to the public and its employees and has been reducing its debt by selling its planes and leasing them back. Ghandour said the airline gained from the declining dollar because all of its debt is denominated in the American currency. He also predicted that the new, lower air fare regime in Europe will increase passenger traffic enough to overcome reduced per-seat revenues.

He said Royal Jordanian sold almost 60 per cent of its available seats this year, up from about 51 per cent in 1986.

Ghandour, a close associate of King Hussein, praised the wave of deregulation and privatisation sweeping the United States and Europe, calling for greater regionalism in international air traffic.

He said "a European air market is envisioned by 1992 and we, the Arab nations, are left behind to reel under a protectionist and restrictive aviation environment that does us no one good."

Ghandour said he envisioned at some time in the future four major airlines or airline combines in the Arab world, grouping existing carriers in North Africa into one, Egypt and Sudan into a second, the Gulf states into a third and Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan as fourth. "I think it will happen one day," he said.

North Sea oil output expected to drop

LONDON, Dec. 14, (Opecna): British North Sea oil production by 1995 is expected to decline to 600,000 bpd, about a quarter of the current figure, according to a newspaper report.

The Sunday Times said present North Sea production of 2.3 million bpd would "well past the peak and running down rapidly," adding that "less inevitable, however, is the way we have signally failed to create a secondary oil sector during this period." In an apparent reference to the recent battle in Britoil by British Petroleum (BP) and Atlantic Richfield, the report said outside the oil majors, the United Kingdom did not have a single oil company in which a significant proportion of the shares were not held by a "potential predator."

"In the restructuring now taking place, few if any will survive," warned the report. On December 8, BP acquired a 14.9 per cent interest in Britoil in a surprise move. It plans to increase this to 29.9 per cent.

On December 11 the US company Arco took 7.7 per cent of Britoil, saying it intended to make a tender offer for 29.9 per cent in the same way as BP.

AVON

The world's biggest Cosmetic Co. is now offering an excellent employment opportunity for ladies willing to serve as Avon.

REPRESENTATIVES

For an appointment, please call 2612443 between 9.30 am and 1 pm and 4 pm and 9 pm.

ADVERTISMENT

Tenders are invited for the supply of the following:

Tender No.	Material	Tender Fee	Closing Date
1/8301	Hydrocarbon (K204)	KD. 2/-	21.12.87-12.00 noon
1/8302	Zinc Sulfate	KD. 2/-	21.12.87-12.00 noon
1/8306	a. Potable Drinking Machine b. Electric Band Saw c. Weighing Machine	KD. 2/-	21.12.87-12.00 noon

Tender documents can be purchased from the Administration Services Dept. at KNPC head office from 14.12.1987.

ADVERTISMENT

Tenders are invited for the supply of the following:

Tender No.	Material	Tender Fee	Closing Date
7/3402	Steel, Hot Alloy Steel	KD. 2/-	25-1-1988
7/3440	Coveralls	KD. 2/-	25-1-1988
7/3458	Anhydrous Sodium Chromate	KD. 2/-	25-1-1988
7/3484	Sodium Carbonate	KD. 2/-	25-1-1988
7/3473	Pipe & Pipe Fittings	KD. 2/-	25-1-1988
7/8205	Stainless Steel Strapping	KD. 2/-	25-1-1988
7/8227	Pipe Fittings	KD. 2/-	25-1-1988

Tender documents can be purchased from the office of the HPPC secretary at K.N.P.C. head office 2nd floor, Room 57, as from 14.12.1987.

LONDON (Alpha Stocks)		
NAME	LAST	035/0
ABBET LIFE	240/0	
ALD LYONS	325/0	
AMSTRAD	110/0	
ARGYLL GP	192/0	
ASDA MFI	158/0	
A B FOODS	295/0	
BAA PP	95/0	
BTR	267/0	
BAT INDS	417/0	
BARCLAYS	446/0	
BASS	780/0	
BEAZER	163/0	
BEECHAMS	446/0	
BET ORD	213/0	
BICC PLC	313/0	
BLUE ARRR	82/0	
BLUE CIRC	314/0	
BOD CO	358/0	
BOOTS CO	227/0	
BR INDS	240/0	
BR COMM	285/0	
BR AIRWAY	137/0	
BR AEROSP	315/0	
BR GAS PP	122/0	
B.P.	245/0	
B.P. NEW	71/0	
BR TELCOM	209/4	
BRITOL	371/0	
BUNZL	160/0	
BURMAN OL	398/0	
BURTON	221/4	
CABLESWIR	322/0	
CADBURYS	251/0	
COATS VTY	250/0	
COMM UNI	338/0	
CONS GOLD	970/0	
COOKSON	475/0	
COURTAULD	327/0	
DALGETY	295/0	
DEE CP	173/2	
DIOMONS	205/0	
ENG CHINA	383/0	
ENTER OIL	270/0	
FERRANTI	82/0	
FISONS	245/0	
GEN ACCIO	805/0	
GEN ELEC	158/0	
GLAXO	987/0	
GRANDADA	290/0	
GLOBE	123/0	
GRAND MET	410/0	
GUS A	055/0	
GUARD RTL	800/0	
GUN	260/0	
GUINNESS	288/2	
HANOVER	450/0	
HANSON	122/0	
HAWKER SIO	407/0	
HAWLEY	88/0	
HILLSDOWN	255/0	

LONDON (Beta Stocks)		
NAME	CLOSE	OPEN
A.B. ELECT	293/0	290/0
APV PLC	114/0	116/0
ARCONSON	99/0	100/0
AAH HDLG	295/0	297/0
ACATOS+H	408/0	408/0
ADDISON G	87/0	86/0
ADVEST GP	264/0	263/0
AISA	136/0	136/0
ALEX WIKW	139/0	143/0
ALLIANCE	719/0	720/0
ALLO COLL	102/0	102/0
ALLO PLAN	39/0	40/0
AMARI PLC	132/0	131/0
AMEC PLC	279/0	279/0
AMER TRUS	108/0	108/0
AMERSHAM	388/0	388/0
ANGLIA TV	269/0	268/0
ANSBACHER	72/0	71/0
APPLEYARD	295/0	300/0
APRICOT	82/0	83/0
ARMSTRONG	139/0	143/0
ANGLO OHS	338/0	338/0
AQUACUTUM	260/0	265/0
ASHLEY L	114/0	106/0
AUTO SEC	217/0	217/0
AVIS EUR	240/0	242/0
AVON RUBB	563/0	570/0
BBA GP	126/0	128/0
BSS INTL	61/0	62/0
BANKER JAP	367/0	365/0
BK OF SCO	408/0	404/0
BARKER DO	165/0	165/0
BART OEV	165/0	166/0
B.WEIMILL	137/0	138/0
BEJAM GP	179/0	180/0
BELHAVEN	37/0	37/0
BELLWAY	175/0	176/0
BENLOUS	180/0	180/0
BENLOUS HD	41/0	41/0
U-BENNETT	34/0	34/0
BENTALLS	137/0	136/0
BERTSFORD	274/0	276/0
BERKELEY	227/0	228/0
BLK LE 2	219/0	219/0
BOASE MAS	129/0	132/0
BOOKER PL	356/0	357/0
BORTHWICK	37/0	37/0
BOATMAN	323/0	323/0
BONTHORPE	155/0	152/0
BRAMMER	212/0	213/0
BRENT KCR	115/0	115/0
BRENT MCR	261/0	263/0
BRIDON	144/0	145/0
BRITANNIC	870/0	875/0
BR ASSETS	60/0	60/0
BR LIND CO	239/0	239/0
BR VITA	376/0	375/0
BRIXTON E	224/0	227/0

World Indices				
INDEX	LATEST	1/PREV-DAYS/2	PREV-QR	PREV-YR
FT 30 ORD	1312.4	1310.7	1285.0	1313.9
FT 500 SHR	0	897.2	897.2	913.61
FT ALL SHR	0	831.08	814.17	1208.89
FT GOV SEC	87.94	88.37	98.94	85.55
FT GOV WNI	336.0	327.3	324.3	453.1
FT MINES F	0	429.6	410.77	688.22
FT OIL	0	163.8	158.4	228.4
FT MLD DLR	112.43	112.19	110.98	136.44
FT MLD STG	90.69	90.87	91.28	124.45
FT MLD LOC	99.66	99.86	100.05	130.67

London Stock Market Report

UK STOCKS CONTINUE LOWER, IGNORING FIRMER WALL ST
LONDON, DEC 14 - SHARE PRICES WERE QUIETLY LOWER IN LATE TRADING SHOWING LITTLE REACTION TO A FIRMER START IN NEW YORK, WITH UNCERTAINTY OVER THE HEAR-TERM OUTLOOK AND THE PROXIMITY OF THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY THE MAIN FACTORS, DEALERS SAID.

ONE COMMENTED TO DESCRIBE THIS MARKET AS DREARY WOULD BE AN UNDERSTATEMENT. NOBODY IS CONFIDENT OF WHERE WE ARE GOING, AND PEOPLE ARE HAPPY JUST TO KEEP CLEAR."

DEALERS SAID A WILDLY ENCOURAGING CONFEDERATION OF BRITISH INDUSTRY (CBI) SURVEY AND RATHER BETTER THAN EXPECTED U.K. RETAIL SALES DATA FOR NOVEMBER WERE LARGELY IGNORED AND AT 1530 GHT THE FTSE 100 INDEX STOOD 8.8 POINTS LOWER AT 1,642.8.

THE CBI SAID 40 PCT OF U.K. COMPANIES ARE FORECASTING A RISE IN OUTPUT OVER THE NEXT FOUR MONTHS WHILE ONLY NINE PCT SAID THEY EXPECTED A DECLINE. THE SURVEY SHOWED NEW ORDERS AT THEIR MOST BUOYANT FOR A DECADE.

DESPITE THE OPTIMISTIC OUTLOOK FOR OUTPUT, MANY ARE WORRIED THAT THE CONTINUING WEAK DOLLAR WILL SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECT THE FUTURE EARNINGS OF MAJOR EXPORTERS SUCH AS GLAXO.

GLAXO SHARES STOOD A NET 50P LOWER AT 970 AFTER CHAIRMAN PAUL GIROLAMI'S STATEMENT TO ITS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. GIROLAMI SAID EXCHANGE RATE CHANGES HAVE BADLY DISTORTED THE COMPANY'S POSITION IN THE FIVE MONTHS SINCE JULY 1.

London Gold

LONDON, DEC 14 - GOLD BULLION ENDED THE DAY 6.55 OUNCE HIGHER AT 499.75/500.25 OUNCE BUT BELOW AN EARLIER 4-3/4 YEAR HIGH.

DEALERS SAID EARLIER GAINS WERE PARIED BY PROFIT-TAKING AND SELLING INSPIRED BY THE FALL IN OIL PRICES FOLLOWING THE FAILURE OF OPEC MINISTERS TO REACH AN AGREEMENT. GOLD HAD RALLIED TO A HIGH OF 502.50/503.50 OUNCE THIS MORNING, THE FIRST TIME IT HAD BREACHED 500 OUNCE SINCE FEBRUARY 22, 1985.

THE UPWARD MOVE WAS PROMPTED BY THE WEAKNESS OF THE DOLLAR AND BUSINESS WAS EXTREMELY ACTIVE THIS MORNING.

London Money Market

LONDON, DEC 14 - MONEY MARKET RATES ENDED LITTLE CHANGED FROM THE HIGHER LEVELS REACHED IN EARLY TRADING AND TURNOVER WAS LOW THROUGHOUT THE SESSION.

NOVEMBER RETAIL SALES WERE SLIGHTLY HIGHER THAN EXPECTED, BUT THIS INDICATION OF A HEALTHY ECONOMY, LIKE THE OPTIMISTIC TONE OF THE LATEST CONFEDERATION OF BRITISH INDUSTRY SURVEY, WAS SEEN AS NEGATIVE FOR INTEREST RATES, DEALERS SAID.

AS LONG AS THE ECONOMY SHOWS LITTLE EVIDENCE OF SLOWING DOWN AFTER THE MARKET UPHEAVAL IN OCTOBER, THERE IS LESS URGENCY TO CUT INTEREST RATES, ESPECIALLY WITH STERLING BEING CONTAINED UNDER THREE MARKS, THEY SAID.

Foreign Exchange				
DLR	STG	DMK	FFR	OPG
1.8440/50	1.6245/55	5.5080/30		
STG 1.8440/50	2.9930/65	10.1530/1680		
DMK 1.6196/6276	2.9930/65	29.40/56		
FFR 5.502/516	10.155/173	338.9/339.4		
SFR 1.3233/3243	2.4396/4428	11.44/55	24.00/55	
HFL 1.8270	3.3710	112.505	33.155	
ECU 1.27020	0.688826	2.06407	6.99878	
SDR 1.38315	0.753145	2.25661	7.66645	
YEN 127.45/55	235.01/33			
SDR	11/12/87	OTHERS	14/12/1987	

Morgan Stanley Capital International Indices				
INDEX	LATEST	1/PREV-DAYS/2	PREV-QR	PREV-YR
AUSTRALIA	232.8	236.6	237.2	263.2
AUSTRIA	205.9	205.1	203.8	263.5
BELGIUM	252.1	259.4	255.2	368.2
CANADA	345.4	339.4	340.9	333.2
DENMARK	340.5	334.7	346.0	393.3
FRANCE	283.8	280.5	281.0	415.2
GERMANY	156.8	158.5	157.0	241.9
HONG KONG	1411.7	1439.9	1404.2	2801.3
ITALY	383.2	392.3	391.7	502.1
JAPAN	1100.3	1113.7	1099.5	1266.4
MEXICO	5734.4	5043.0	6162.1	1984.9
NETHERLANDS	208.4	206.0	209.2	308.5
NORWAY	384.4	394.1	392.7	698.2
SINGAPORE	417.1	428.1	417.7	789.8
SPAIN	201.6	204.6	199.6	266.5
SWEDEN	677.5	693.3	686.23	1007.7
SWITZ	138.4	141.4	139.3	213.9
U.K.	495.5	484.8	489.9	711.9
U.S.A.	219.3	217.9	223.0	300.0
WORLD	398.5	397.6	393.5	485.4
E.A.F.E.	747.6	747.8	727.5	850.0
EUROPE	343.7	341.4	336.5	444.9

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NAME	OPEN	CLOSE
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ATLANTIC R	66/3	67/3
AAR CORP	15/0	15/4
ALASKA AIR	44/0	44/1
ALCAN ALUM	13/0	12/6
ALCO STAND	25/6	26/2
ALCO STND	18/5	18/5
AM CAP SEC	23/7	24/0
AMER CYANA	38/4	39/0
AM FAMILY	14/3	14/2
AM HOM PRO	68/0	68/5
AM STNDARD	34/5	34/5
AM STORES	45/3	45/5
AMER T	27/5	27/3
AMOCO CP	65/7	66/3
AMP INC	45/2	45/0
AMPCO PITT	12/6	12/5
AMR CORP	29/6	29/1
AMR GEN CO	27/5	27/7
AMROA HESS	24/0	24/1
ANTHEM ELE	9/1	9/2
APACHE CP	7/3	7/3
APACHE PET	3/4	3/4
ARMCO INC	10/4	10/4
ASARCO INC	26/3	26/3
ASHLAND OIL	55/0	55/6
ATLS CORP	36/4	36/6
AVERT INT	17/0	17/6
AVNET INC	23/6	23/6
AVON PRODS	23/6	23/4
BELL ATLAN	64/6	64/7
BELL CAN E	27/6	28/1
BELL-HOW	60/6	60/4
BETH STEEL	16/2	16/2
BEVERLY	7/4	7/4
BK BOSTON	19/5	19/5
BK BOSTN	0	48/0
BK N-YORK	25/6	25/7
BANKER	7/2	7/3
BANKAMER	6/4	6/4
BANK SPEC	35/7	35/6
BOISE CASC	62/7	63/2
BORDER	45/3	45/3
BORG-MARKR	0	45/5
BOATMAN	27/4	27/3
BR TELECOM	38/7	38/5
BRIGGS-STR	22/6	22/7
BRIST-NYER	40/6	41/0
BRUNSWICK	14/1	14/1
BUNBYD CP	10/3	10/2
C 3 INC	9/0	9/0
CABOT CORP	29/0	29/2
CAESARS W	18/7	19/0
CARDOL FRE	18/7	18/6
CAS NAT GS	13/2	13/1
CASH-COKE	16/2	16/2
CATERPILLA	58/4	58/2
CB I INC	17/2	17/0
CBS	147/0	147/2
CENTEL CP	34/0	34/0
CENTRO DAT	2/0	2/1
CHAMP INTL	31/6	31/1
CHAMP SPA	10/1	10/2
CHARTER CO	3/4	3/4
CHASE MANH	22/2	22/2
CHASE CP	30/7	30/5
CHENIC NY	23/7	24/0
CHRYSLER	37/6	38/1
CHRYSLER	21/0	21/0
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CHUR FR CH	6/7	6/7
CIGNA CORP	41/6	41/3
CIN MILACR	20/4	21/0
CIR CIT ST	19/6	20/0
CIRCLE K	11/0	10/7
CLICOR	17/2	17/2
CLARK EQUI	24/4	24/6
CLOROX	27/0	26/7
CMPLL RES	1/6	1/5
CMPLL SP	53/0	53/6
CND PACIFIC	15/4	15/5
COACHMAN	6/7	7/0
COASTAL	25/7	26/0
COCA COLA	39/1	38/7
COLECO	4/2	4/1
COLEMAN CO	29/0	29/2
COLGATE	8/6	8/5
COLT INDS	36/7	37/0
COLUMB GAS	39/6	40/0
COMM EDIS	29/0	29/0
CONAGRA	23/1	23/5
CONV ED-NY	42/3	42/1
CONTINENTA	37/6	38/0
CONTL ILLN	*02	*02
CONTEL CP	27/6	27/6
CONTR OATA	19/0	19/0
COOPER T-R	26/7	26/6
COOPER COR	8/1	8/1
CORNING GL	48/5	48/7
CRANE	19/4	19/6
CRAY RES	66/6	66/3
CULINET	4/6	4/6
DANIEL IND	5/3	5/2
DATA GEN	20/6	20/6
DATAPoint	4/0	4/1
DAYTON HUD	26/2	26/2
DIG EQUIP	120/7	120/4
DEERE CO	36/0	35/5
DELTA AIR	34/7	34/1
DIAMOND SH	7/6	7/7
DIEBOLD	33/4	33/4
DISHNEY W	56/0	54/6
DOVER CORP	56/1	56/1
DOW CHEM	81/0	81/7
DOW JONES	30/6	30/6
DRESSER	23/1	23/1
DREYFUS	22/2	22/0
DUKE POWER	42/6	43/1
DUN BRAD	49/0	49/4
DUPONT	80/1	80/3
DUQUESNE	11/5	11/4
DYNAMICS	15/7	15/5
E SYSTEMS	25/4	25/6
EASTMAN K	46/2	45/5
EATON CORP	77/0	77/2
EMERY AIR	5/2	5/1
ENHART CP	19/7	19/7
ETHYL CP	15/6	15/7
EXXON	39/2	39/3
FAM DOL ST	7/5	7/6
FED EXPRESS	38/0	38/0
FELDCREST	15/1	15/0
FIN COR-AM	1/5	1/5
FIRESTONE	28/3	28/3
FMC CORP	30/4	30/5
FORD MOTOR	74/4	73/7
FORBOWR	36/1	36/3
FORBOWR CO	20/2	20/3
FRCHLD IND	7/7	7/7
FST BANK	18/4	19/2
FST BOSTON	22/0	22/0
FST CHICAG	18/2	18/4
FST CTU BK	*11	*12
FST NAT BK	27/6	28/0
GAF CORP	45/0	45/0
GANNETT CO	34/0	34/2
GALVESTON	1/6	1/6
GATX CORP	36/0	36/0
GCA CP	2/0	2/0
GEARHART	7/7	7/7
GEN DATA	4/3	4/3
GENL DYNAM	45/6	45/7
GENL ELEC	43/5	43/5
GEN HOST	7/5	7/5
GEN HOUSNR	7/3	7/3
GEN INSTR	29/7	29/5

Wall Street Statistics "Composite"			
NYSE HIGHEST VOLUME		AMEX HIGHEST VOLUME	
SOU ME TEL	45 3/4 + 3/4	DOME PETE	5/8 - 1/16
NAVISTAR	4 1/8 + 3/8	ECHO BAY	25 1/8 + 1
TEXACO	35 1/8 + 3/4	GULF CAN R	12 7/8 + 1/8
GLAXO MLDN	17 7/8 - 5/8	HANG LAB B	10 1/4 + 3/8
GEN ELEC	44 1/8 + 1/2	WESTERN OI	14 3/8 + 1/2
EXXON	38 3/4 - 1/2	TEXAS AIR	11 1/2 + 1
IBM	113 1/8 + 3	TEXAS INTL	7/8 - 1/16
ATT	27 7/8 + 1/2	ABN GOLD	8 1/4 + 5/8
SANTA FE	45 1/2 + 5/8	NY TIMES A	29 1/2 + 5/8
USX CORP	31 1/4 + 3/4	FRUIT LOOM	4 7/8 - 1/8
NYSE LARGEST PER CENT CHANGE		AMEX LARGEST PER CENT CHANGE	
MALAYSIA	5 1/8 + 7/8	CASABLANCA	5 3/8 + 1 1/8
ALLEN GRP	7 1/2 + 1 1/4	NORTHEAST	2 1/2 + 1/2
VARO	8 5/8 + 1 1/8	AMER ROYAL	8 1/8 + 1 1/4
GEN ENERGY	2 1/2 - 1/8	BIOTECH INC	2 5/8 - 3/8
F B HALL	2 5/8 - 3/8	SEC CAP CP 2	- 1/4
NYSE VOLUME		AMEX VOLUME	
STOCKS UP	64,631,700	STOCKS UP	5,646,081
STOCKS DOWN	914	STOCKS DOWN	301
	360	STOCKS DOWN	206
11-DEC NASDAQ VOLUME 118,027,500			
STOCKS UP 1303 DOWN 954			
NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE			

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Washington tries to stabilise exchange rates

US is not seeking 'lower dollar'

WASHINGTON, Dec 14, (Reuters). The Reagan administration denied today that it favoured a further fall in the dollar and said it was working with America's main trading partners to stabilise exchange rates.

"As the President said, we are not seeking a decline in the dollar," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said at a regular press briefing.

His comments gave only a modest boost to the dollar, which inched up from a record low of 1.6215 West German marks earlier today to trade around 1.63.

Pressure

It rose from a 40-year low of 127.35 Japanese yen to stand at 127.85 in late-morning trading in New York.

Oil prices fall as Opec strives to reach accord

(Continued from Page 1)

maintain its official oil price of \$18 a barrel.

It would renew its current set of production quotas, based on an overall ceiling for 12 members of 15.06 million barrels a day.

Iraq planned to opt out of the deal, according to its Oil Minister, Issam Abdul Raheem Al Chalabi. He said yesterday his demand for a quota equal to Iran's had not been met and reiterated that his country would never accept anything less than parity with its war rival. He left Vienna today for Amman, Jordan.

Iraq's absence from the agreement is a major setback for Opec, since Iraq is a large producer and is bent on increasing its output to finance its war effort.

The official new production ceiling of 15.06 million barrels a day was arrived at by subtracting Iraq's theoretical quota from the present ceiling of 16.6 million, officials said.

KIO boosts stake in BP

LONDON, Dec 14, (Reuters). The Kuwaitis have now raised their stake in British Petroleum Co Plc (BP) above 13 per cent, the world's third largest oil multinational said today.

The Kuwait Investment Office, which invests the Gulf state's petrodollars worldwide, began buying into BP last month after an issue of new BP stock and the sale of a government stake flopped because of the crash on the stock markets.

That left the new, part-paid BP shares at bargain basement prices.

BP said the KIO now held 13.07 per cent.

VACANCY
STOREKEEPER

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The dollar has been under intense pressure since the administration, fearing a recession in an election year, decided after the October 19 stock market crash not to raise interest rates to defend the currency.

Selling pressure intensified after last Thursday's trade figures showed a record deficit on October of \$17.63 billion, up from \$14.08 billion in September.

Costs

Because the administration has done little to temper the dollar selling, except for some limited dollar purchases by the Federal Reserve, dealers have been speculating that the currency's decline had official blessing.

A cheaper dollar helps to reduce the trade deficit by raising the costs of imports and by mak-

ing US products more competitive on world markets.

But Fitzwater said the financial markets should believe President Reagan when he says, as he did last month, that the United States is opposed to a further fall.

Strengthening

"It's our policy. We've stated it several times," he said. "We and our major allies are in the process of strengthening our policy in a coordinated fashion in order to provide a basis for stable exchange rates," Fitzwater added.

Earlier this month West Germany unveiled a \$13 billion package of subsidised investment credits and cut some important interest rates in a bid to boost its economy and suck in more US imports.

Although many foreign exchange dealers are predicting further losses for the dollar, some influential commentators have started to warn about the dangers of a continued decline.

Paul Volcker, former chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, said yesterday that the currency had already fallen too far.

Inflation

"I don't think it's helpful to have the dollar fall at this point because I think it can be depressing on economic activity abroad... and potentially inflationary in the United States," said Volcker, who was succeeded as head of the US central bank last August by Alan Greenspan.

A lower dollar fuels US inflation by making imports more expensive. As foreign exporters

lose market share as a result, they cut back production and economic growth abroad slows.

Henry Kaufman, chief economist at Salomon Brothers, a Wall Street investment banking firm, agreed with Volcker. He said in Tokyo today that rising inflation caused by a falling dollar would eventually put significant upward pressure on interest rates.

"Therefore, a policy in 1988 pursuing a lower dollar value becomes quite dangerous," Kaufman said.

Fitzwater declined to comment directly on Volcker's warning but said, "we believe we're proceeding as best we can. On the other hand, we would agree that there are concerns out there, and Chairman Volcker enumerated those."

Consumer confidence lost

Gloomy forecast for US next year

WASHINGTON, Dec 14, (AP). The United States could be in a recession by the end of 1988 because of a loss of consumer confidence following the October stock market collapse, the nation's business economists said today.

The National Association of Business Economists said its latest quarterly survey, taken at the end of November, reflected growing pessimism following the record plunge in stock prices on Oct 19.

Many of the economists for the nation's largest corporations have moved up the date when they believe the next recession will begin.

Downturn

Half of those surveyed now believe the next downturn will start before the end of next year. In the previous survey taken in August, only one-third were that pessimistic.

Jerry Jordan, the association official who compiled the survey, cited the stock market decline and growing disenchantment with federal efforts to deal with the US budget deficit as primary reasons for the gloomier forecasts.

"A substantial number of

economists are looking for reduced consumer spending to bring on the next recession," said Jordan, chief economist for First Interstate Bancorp of Los Angeles.

For 1987, the economists predicted the economy, as measured by the Gross National Product, would expand at a 3.2 per cent rate, matching the forecast made last January by US President Ronald Reagan's administration.

Sluggish

But the troubles on Wall Street caused them to reduce substantially their growth forecast for 1988, dropping it to a sluggish 2 per cent growth rate. In August, the economists had been expecting growth of 2.7 per cent next year.

Sluggish growth would send the unemployment rate rising next year. The business forecast predicted unemployment, which is now at an eight-year low of 5.9 per cent, will climb to 6.3 per cent next year.

Jordan said that many economists reported business holding up well in their own firms in the month following the stock decline, but they still were pessimistic about the overall econ-

Recession

He said 65 per cent of the economists reported rising demand for their company's products, the second-highest positive level in three years.

But 50 per cent of the economists still said the country would be in a recession before the end of next year and another 38 per cent said the recession would begin in 1989, coinciding with the next president's first year in office.

These were among the other findings of the survey, which reflected the opinions of 209 economists.

— Inflation, as measured by consumer prices, will rise 4.3 per cent next year.

The nation's foreign trade deficit, which hit a monthly record of \$17.6 billion in October, will total a record \$160 billion this year, but start to decline in 1988, dropping to \$142 billion. The 1986 deficit was \$156.2 billion.

— The federal budget deficit, which dipped to \$148 billion in the fiscal year that ended Sept 30 because of windfall tax revenues, will increase in the current fiscal

year to \$160 billion.

The economists expressed substantial dissatisfaction with efforts so far by the administration and Congress to come up with credible reductions in the budget deficit.

Over 70 per cent of those surveyed said they favoured cutting defence spending by larger amounts than currently scheduled as a means of reducing the deficit. Slightly smaller majorities favoured increasing liquor and cigarette taxes to raise money, and also supported cuts in social programmes.

Stabilise

The economists were not very optimistic about administration efforts, led by Treasury Secretary James A. Baker III, to stabilise the value of the dollar through coordinated efforts with other countries. They contended that market forces should be allowed to establish the proper selling price for the dollar.

The economists were nearly unanimous in predicting the dollar would fall further next year, with half of them forecasting the decline would be steeper than 10 per cent. The dollar has fallen by almost 50 per cent in value since February 1985.

Dollar plunges to record low against Japanese yen

NEW YORK, Dec 14, (AP). The US dollar plunged to a record low against the Japanese yen and the West German mark today, as fears of US protectionism deepened.

Stock prices in Japan also fell. Trading was mixed in London.

The dollar closed at 128.00 yen, down 0.75 yen from its Friday finish, registering a record low for the fourth consecutive trading day in Tokyo. Despite heavy dollar-buying intervention by the Bank of Japan, it fell at one point to 127.90 yen, its lowest since modern exchange rates were set in the late 1940s.

The dollar dropped to 1.6236 West German marks in Frankfurt at the foreign exchange fixing a record low for the second straight day of trading. The dollar was set at 1.6315 marks on Friday.

The Bundesbank did not intervene at the dollar fixing, and traders said the West German central bank today also had stayed out of the open market.

Direction

In Loodoo at midday, the market seemed to drift without direction.

The widely watched Financial Times-Stock Exchange 100-share index at about 12:30 pm (1230 GMT) was down 3.8 at 1,647.8. The index opened 0.6 points up, then drifted to its low of 10.4 points down before recovering.

British dealers said the weaker dollar was hurting some major shares, while selective buying was helping others.

Since early 1985, the dollar has

lost about half its value against the Japanese yen and the German mark.

The central bank in Japan does not comment on its activities, but reportedly bought \$100 million to 200 million to prop up the sagging currency, which now has lost 4.78 yen in four days.

"It's a continuation on Friday's activities and the feeling that US government is content to let the dollar slide," said Alan Yamashita, manager of foreign exchange at Goldman Sachs (Japan).

The dollar plunged 3.43 yen against the Japanese currency in Tokyo on Friday following news that the US trade deficit in October had shot up to \$17.6 billion from \$14.1 billion in September, an increase of 25 per cent.

Causes

The US trade deficit, along with the US federal budget deficit, have been cited as major causes of the dollar's weakness.

The October US trade deficit was "extremely unwelcome news," said Jimmy McGregor, director of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce.

"The fear is that US protectionist lobby will now be given the kind of fillip they've been looking for," McGregor said Friday in Hong Kong.

Some economists had felt the dollar's two-year decline was beginning to have an effect that would be reflected in a stable or shrinking US trade imbalance as pressures grew for foreign producers to raise their prices on goods sold in the United States. At the same time, US exports

would become less expensive for foreign buyers.

"But the October trade report indicated the dollar might not have fallen enough yet, analysts said."

Concern about the US trade deficit has been cited as one of the reasons for the record plunge in stock prices on Oct 19.

On Saturday, US Secretary of State George P. Shultz called on Western nations to stimulate their economies to help reduce the US trade deficit. He spoke in Brussels after a year-end meeting with leaders of the European Economic Community.

He did not mention any of the 12 EEC countries by name, but his remarks were widely seen as aimed at West Germany, which has the strongest economy in the trading bloc.

Fear

Topping the EEC agenda was the fear that the US trade deficit would spark renewed pressure on the US Congress to adopt protectionist legislation. Shultz said the source of the imbalance was the "vigorous" US economy, which "has drawn a huge, strong flood of imports."

Shultz assured the Europeans that the administration of US President Ronald Reagan was trying to avoid protectionism at home. The dollar has fallen much less against currencies of US trading partners such as South Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong. So a decline in the dollar against major currencies such as the Japanese yen and the German mark does not necessarily hurt imports from these Pacific rim countries.

Iraqi oil revenue will continue to grow

LONDON, Dec 14, (Kuna). Iraq's oil revenue will continue to grow at a higher rate, (14.4 per cent in 1988), than that of Iran (11.9 per cent in the same year), according to a respected publication here today.

DRI News Service, a specialised oil publication, pointed out that Iraq was hoping to increase growth by strengthening cooperation between the private and public sectors.

Baghdad would also start to revive many of its planned development projects, while the opening of a pipeline through Turkey and Saudi Arabia has already helped it to boost its oil exports, the forecast added.

The review indicated that Iraq's economy will revive from 1989 onwards and it will have a growth rate of 10.5 per cent in 1990, compared with a rate of only 2.2 per cent in Iran.

On the economic picture in Tehran, the report suggested that it needs to depend on its own resources as its oil revenue cannot expand fast enough to boost growth.

DRI also anticipates difficulties for Iran financing its balance of payment deficit in the face of limited embargo by the United States.

On the other hand, the study recalled that Iraq has access to the "oil-rich countries of the Middle East to finance the trade deficit and at the same time its oil revenue will grow quickly."

In addition, Iraqi trade links with the US and the EEC countries are also expanding, it concluded.

Opec will continue to dominate oil market

PARIS, Dec 14, (Opecna). Opec will continue to dominate the world oil market due to a number of technical and economic factors, the French newspaper Liberation said here yesterday.

Oil reserves in Opec countries like Saudi Arabia and Kuwait would last until the next century, while 27 out of the 33 oilfields in the North Sea were operating at their maximum now, said the newspaper.

It said that in 15 years, north sea fields would be exhausted. The same thing would be witnessed in Canada and Australia.

Another factor, it said, was that the fall in oil prices which was being welcomed by Western economies now, would turn out to be in favour of Opec nations in the coming years.

Since 1986 oil production in non-Opec countries had been slashed due to low prices, which had reduced their exploration budgets by 25 to 30 per cent.

The number of operating rigs in the US over the same period was down to 633, the lowest record since 1940. Only four years ago, 4,500 rigs were believed to guarantee energy independence.

The third factor, the paper

said, was that production costs were increasing, making drilling operations unfeasible in Western producing areas. In the North Sea, the last field put in service had a production cost of \$10 a barrel, while in Alaska the cost went beyond \$20.

Despite the recent stock market crash, Opec nations were looking for chances to acquire stock in Western oil companies, a move resisted by major American companies, it said.

Liberation said the drastic stock value losses suffered by oil companies had whetted the appetite of "raiders who prefer drill in Wall Street instead of in oilfields."

Many companies, mainly American, had bought their own shares from the market to prevent an alien from acquiring them, a reaction to the recent purchase of 11 per cent of British Petroleum by Kuwait.

On top of that, many Western companies were finding it difficult to recoup the funds they had lost on the stock market recently, said the paper.

In the long-run, the paper concluded, Opec would be the winner if it maintained \$15-20 per barrel prices.

Mexico devalues peso

MEXICO CITY, Dec 14, (AP). The government today sharply devalued the national currency by 22 per cent to 2,200 pesos to the dollar as part of a series of measures designed to shore up the weak economy.

The Bank of Mexico, the nation's central bank, issued a one-paragraph statement announcing the change in the currency. A bank spokesman said the presidential office would announce additional measures later in the day.

"As part of a cooperative programme between the government and the workers, campesino and business sectors... the controlled exchange rate has been increased today to 2,200 pesos to the dollar," said the statement.

The Bank of Mexico said the devaluation represents a 22 per cent weakening of the currency.

which on Friday was trading at about 1,800 pesos to the dollar.

The decision puts the controlled rate, which is regulated by the government, at about the same level as the peso in free-market trading.

Plummeted

The value of the peso in free-market trading plummeted nearly 46 per cent last month after the Bank of Mexico decided to stop providing dollars to support the currency.

The unexpected decline caused widespread uncertainty in the nation's financial markets and added a fresh kick to the already high inflation rate.

Labour unions recently demanded a 46 per cent increase in the minimum wage to make up for the devaluation of the currency and vowed to stage a nationwide strike on Friday if their demands were not met.

Yugoslavia to cut number of official cars

BELGRADE, Dec 14, (Reuters). The Yugoslav government wants to take cars away from many officials because it believes they have abused their privilege by using them for private business, the Belgrade newspaper Politika Ekspres said today.

The paper quoted Deputy Justice Minister Blagoje Nikolic as saying the government was considering sharply reducing the number of official cars in 1988 and limiting their regular use to cabinet ministers.

The Communist government has 800 official cars and 26 buses, the paper reported. A further 176,000 official cars are owned by state firms. Abuse of official cars for private use "is increasingly evident and contributes to a negative political climate," the paper said.

Adieu & Welcome Reception at Kuwait Sheraton



Kuwait Sheraton recently held a gala reception to bid farewell to Mr. Jose Mendez, outgoing general manager and welcome Mr. Peter C. Wenzinger, the new general manager of the Sheraton. The gala reception was attended by members of the diplomatic corps, top government officials, bankers, members of the travel and tourism industry, businessmen and friends.

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The Management and Staff of Major Projects Group,

Kuwait National Petroleum Company
express their heartfelt condolences

to Mr. P.K. Tyagi
on the sudden demise of his
beloved father
in New Delhi, India

May his Soul Rest in Peace

هو كذا من الأهل



AN East German borderguard stands behind an open door in the Berlin Wall, which is painted with graffiti. The door, which was unknown until yesterday allows Communist borderguards to pass through the wall in front of the Brandenburg gate. (Reuter radiophoto)



ROCK STAR and famine relief fund-raiser Bob Geldof smiles as he is greeted by well wishers in London at Heathrow Airport on Sunday, after returning from a fact finding tour of famine-struck Ethiopia and civil war-torn Mozambique. (Reuter radiophoto).



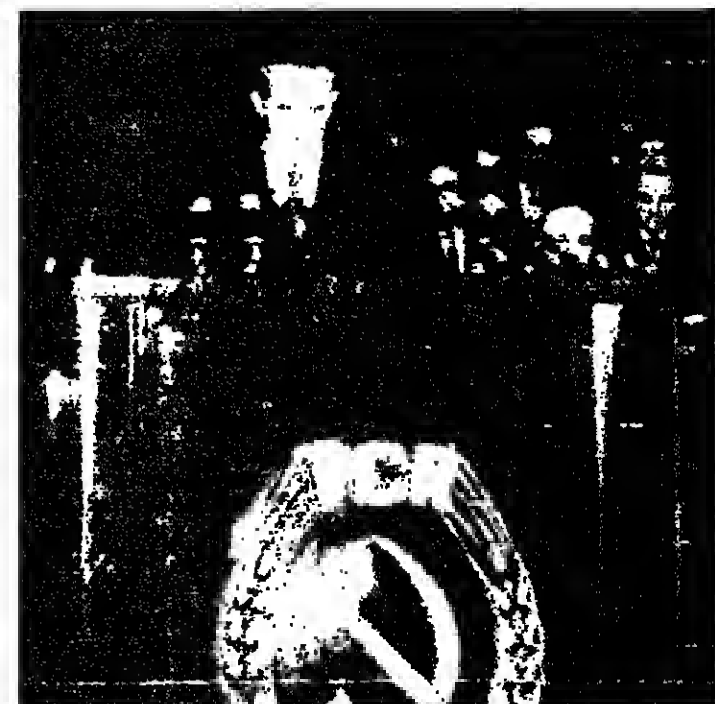
A GULL flies through the light reflecting off a lake in the Bois de Chambre Park in Brussels during yesterday's late afternoon sunshine. (Reuter radiophoto)



PALESTINIAN youngsters, their faces covered by "keffiyeh" to avoid being identified, throwing stones on Sunday at Israeli Security Forces. Five Palestinian youths and six Israeli soldiers were already injured on the fifth day of violence in the occupied territories. (Reuter radiophoto)



NICARAGUAN President Daniel Ortega speaks to a congress of Sandinista labour unionists in Managua on Sunday. Ortega says the government is ordering a wage increase but he warned that raging inflation will soon eat on the increase. Inflation will not end until the war ends he said. (Reuter radiophoto)



ROMANIAN President Nicolai Ceausescu addresses the opening session of the Romanian Communist Party National Conference. In a speech carried by the official government news agency he conceded "that production and trade targets had not been met in the first two years of the 1986-1990 plan." (Reuter radiophoto)



TWO US Navy RH53D Sea Stallion helicopters return to the deck of the USS Okinawa after searching for mines in the waters near Farsi Island in the Gulf this week. (Reuter radiophoto)



THE Oil Minister of Iraq, Issam Abdul Raheem Al Chalabi, talks to the waiting press after yesterday's meeting of the Opec members in Vienna on Sunday. The minister told reporters he would not be signing an Opec accord on 1988 output and pricing levels. (Reuter radiophoto)



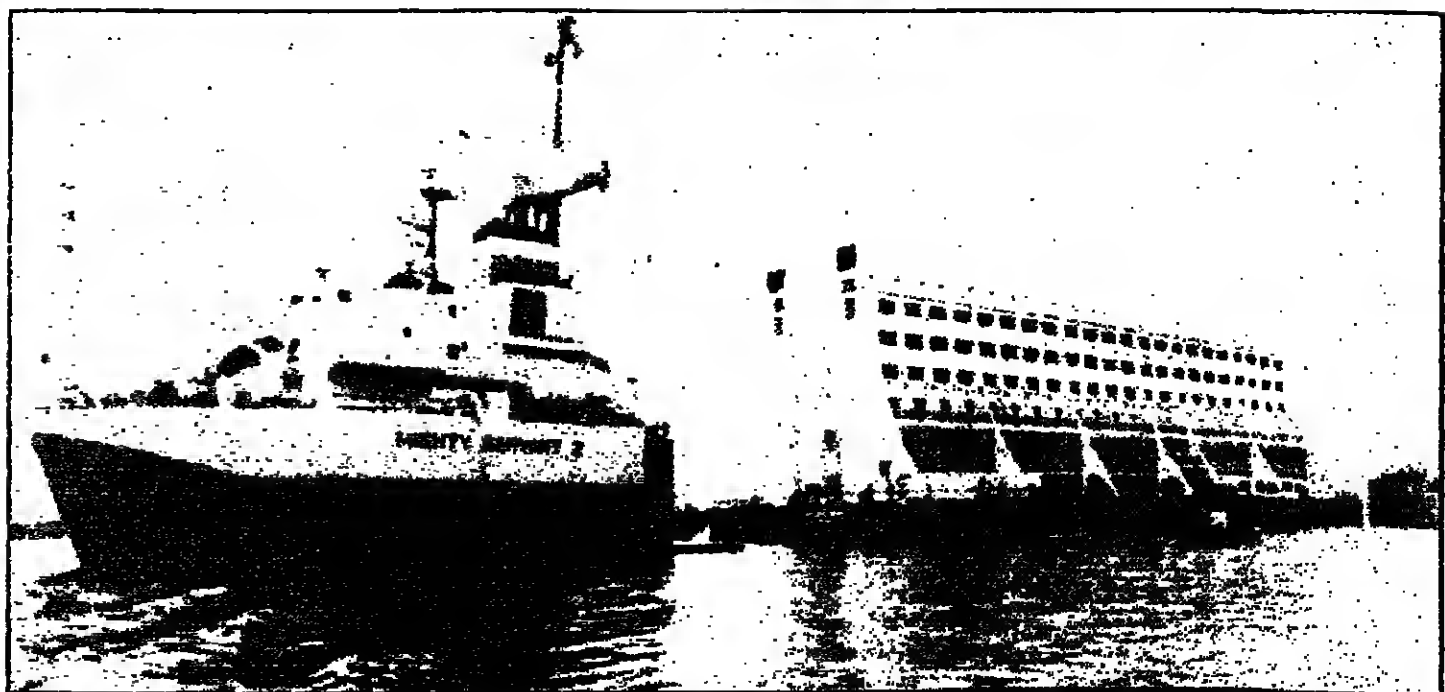
PRIME MINISTER Wilfried Martens reflects on latest election results before a live television debate Sunday evening in which he said, "it's not possible for me, for the moment, on the basis of the figures I have before my eyes to form a coherent and stable government." Martens resigned yesterday from his post after the general election setback. (Reuter radiophoto)



MILOSLAV MECIR (left) and Tomas Smid of Czechoslovakia during their final in the Masters Doubles tennis at London's Royal Albert Hall on Sunday against Americans Ken Flach and Robert Seguso. The Czechoslovakians won 6-4, 7-5, 6-7, 6-3. (Reuter radiophoto)



NO matter how hard they tried, this little girl would not sit on the lap of this department store Santa Claus in Johannesburg today. (Reuter radiophoto)



THE Mighty Servant 2's lower deck being submerged to load the 12,000-tonne floating hotel, will resurface after water is pumped out. The 200-room hotel will leave for the Great Barrier Reef, Queensland, Australia, where it will serve as the Four Seasons Barrier Reef Resort. (Reuter radiophoto)

PEOPLE

Princess raising eyebrows with hemlines and high-living friends

By Deborah Telford

LONDON. (Renter): Princess Diana — Britain's attractive, blonde, future queen and the most photographed woman in the world — has an image problem.

It's not that she's too thin, or too fat, needs a nose job, is drinking too much, or has any of the other alleged ailments Britain's tabloids delight in reporting as fact.

The 26-year-old mother of two is having too much fun.

And she's kicking up her heels with a sense of style that some Buckingham Palace observers say has finally overstepped the restraint the royal family should show.

Even the most trivial details of Diana's glamorous wardrobe, public appearances and private habits have made headlines since the coy former kindergarten teacher sent fervour for the royals soaring with her engagement to Prince Charles in 1981.

Since then she has become the darling of the media impressed by her refreshing down-to-earth nature, love of children, pop music and dancing.

But in a year when speculation is intense that she and Charles are drifting apart and the young royals are being told their coltish behaviour is undermining the monarchy's dignity, Diana is raising more eyebrows than usual with her hemlines and high-living friends.

Just as Buckingham Palace was papering over Charles and



Diana who failed most of her school exams described herself as "thick as a plank".

'Dizzy disco Di' seeks new image



The Princess and her sister-in-law having some fun at Ascot in July.

Diana's alleged marriage rift by ensuring they were seen more together after 39 days apart over the summer, Diana was photographed after dinner with a male friend last month.

The raucous "People" newspaper said the Princess burst into tears when the photographer snapped her skylarking outside friend's home with life guards captain David Waterhouse who tried playfully to run her down with his silver Audi 100.

Attacked

That incident followed media comments that Diana and her sister-in-law, Sarah Ferguson, were fooling about too much in public at Ascot, Britain's premier horse-racing event, and reports that they were consuming large quantities of champagne, Pimm's and white wine at private drinking parties.

Royal observers have also attacked the other young members of the royal family for appearing in "It's A Knock



Diana attends the memorial service for the Kings Cross fire victims in London.

Out," a television game-show whose participants dress up in funny clothes and attempt slapstick tasks.

Buckingham Palace's press office — which normally watches in long-suffering silence as the royals' lives are pulled apart in the media tug-of-war for readership — confirmed that Diana and Waterhouse had dined together.

But it rounded on the press by expressing concern that Diana was being hounded more than ever by hands of freelance photographers who tracked her all over London and pose a security threat.

Last week the palace public relations machine swung into action by sanctioning reports about Diana's "secret" good words for Dr Barnardo's, a children's charity, of which she is the British president.

In a widely-reported statement, a spokeswoman for Dr Barnardo's said Diana had been working for three years behind-the-scenes, making visits to the homes of handicap-

ped children, sexually abused children and families under stress.

"The princess is a hard-working woman, far removed from her dizzy disco image," the spokeswoman said.

Diana, who failed most of her school exams and publicly described herself in January as "thick as a plank", took notes and had appeared very knowledgeable during the charity's management meetings, she said.

In July, Diane herself broke with the royal custom of not responding to press reports by denying she was a heavy drinker.

"Contrary to recent reports in some of our more sensational Sunday newspapers, I have not been drinking, and I am not about to become an alcoholic," she said. Since then, she has twice quipped that she does not believe what she reads in the papers.

According to recent polls, she is not alone.

Forty-eight per cent of

Britons do not believe what they read about the royals, and 67 per cent think the media pays too much attention to the royal family.

Princess Anne still tops the list as the royal member people think is most unfairly treated, but Princess Diana has this year passed Prince Andrew to take second place.

The tabloids' latest shock "revelations" have included reports that Queen Elizabeth summoned Charles and Diana to a midnight summit and told them they had to be "seen" to be getting along, and that she will in future vet each of the royals' timetable to avoid undignified public displays.

Suzi Menkes, the fashion editor of Britain's more staid Independent newspaper, commented on television last week that Diana's short skirts and plunging necklines were those "of a tart".

"I think Diana made a mistake when she went for her Dynasty Di image... it just doesn't work when you're the future queen for people to be looking at your legs and the length of your dress, or being wolf-whistled in the street," Menkes said.

The racy "News of the World" followed hot on Menkes' heels.

It said the Queen was horrified by the clothes Sarah Ferguson and Diana had started wearing.



She has denied publicly that she is becoming an alcoholic.

Suffering the wages of sin

Christine Keeler, former good-time girl whose affair with UK war minister John Profumo rocked the British government in the early 60's, talks about her lonely life, after the scandal.



Christine Keeler with her son

CHRISTINE Keeler and her son prepared coffee in the kitchen. Maternal, domestic even, Christine was instructing Seymour, 15, in the art of combining boiling water and Nescafe. "I have made coffee before, Mother," he said in the universal world-weary tone of adolescents. They have a good relationship.

So good that when we talked about men, the perennial subject with Keeler, he butted in. Christine was inveighing against male weakness, saying that the idea of pandering to it with legalised brothels was disgusting. She was very strong on this. Then Seymour interrupted — "But Mum, they wouldn't just be for men. There'd be studs for women..." Taking a tough line, the now Mrs Sloane told her son this wasn't meant to be an argument between them, but part of her interview. He shut up.

This image, domesticated Christine Keeler battling against the odds, the woman in under-furnished flat, persists. While Mandy Rice-Davies bounced off into her sunset in clouds of publicity, the received wisdom about Christine Keeler was that in her case the wages of sin — or exploitation of youthful mistake — were definitely a big downer.

If not death, then anyway a lonely, low profile existence on the 11th floor of a tower block off the end of the King's Road in Chelsea, London was the last sad chapter of the Profumo affair.

As soon as it was known that Christine had been sleeping with Jack Profumo, then Secretary of State for War, as well as Capt Yevgeny Ivanov, a Russian and supposed agent, a big scandal broke. Everyone lost their jobs, and Stephen

Ward, the man who'd introduced the girls into society, committed suicide.

Her address is World's End. The copy almost wrote itself. Worn carpets, no glitter, a universal reminder of the penalty of breaking the 11th commandment: Thou shalt not get found out.

As Christine says, "People were always doing pieces based on how lonely Christine Keeler has become, how ugly..."

But no story is every quite that simple. And now the truth is going to emerge, unadulterated, the Keeler affair as it really was. Xanadu Publishers are publishing the new, definitive book, provisional title Sex Scandals. Unlike the previous definitive Keeler book, Nothing But, this will be it, the truth 25 years on.

And there's the rub. Christine Keeler's life is inextricably bound to her brief glamorous past (or the first segment, anyway — she had another glittering phase when married to Mr Platt, Seymour's dad) like cat hair to the sofa. She will always be a call girl to tabloid headline writers. "It's as if I'd been naked in the streets, whereas all my life since has been respectable."

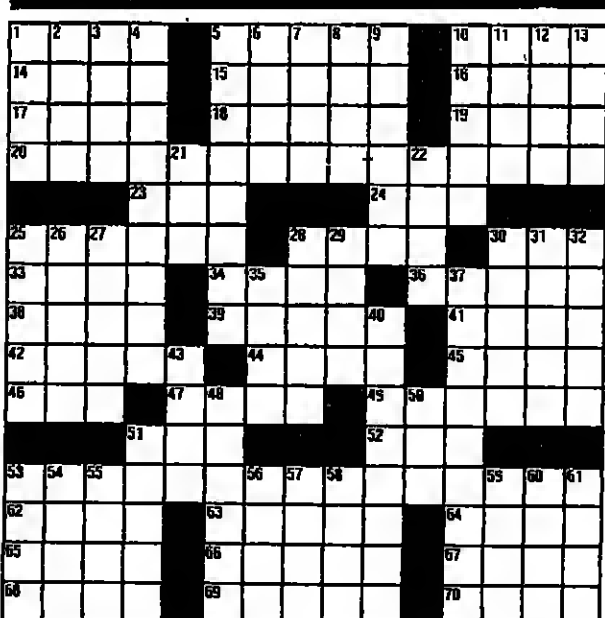
Yet although she hates the sort of mud that's been thrown since the Profumo affair, and has a pretty good conspiracy theory ("They wanted to say I was a scrubber, nothing, and simply I'd forgotten the men in my life, so they could ruin

anyone just by linking his name with mine. If I'd made love with everyone they said, I'd have had no time for anything else..."), the past does make her money. Handwritten contracts await interviewers and photographers, penned in brown Biro. And spelt out painstakingly because, like her son, Christine Keeler is dyslexic.

She is bringing up Seymour, named after Seymour Walk, where Christine was living when she was pregnant, differently. "He has no mental aggression, no man has bossed him around." One of the difficult moments must have been telling Seymour about her past. He was 5. "I said when your mother was a young girl and very beautiful, men tried to manipulate her and she let them for a while." She went on to say she knew what she was doing was wrong.

"For 25 years, they've been calling me this — vice girl. But I've been straight for years... I have been very, very used by people." The sense of grievance is a recurring theme in the interview. She is on the defensive, saying that the people who have criticised her have been themselves in some way inadequate. "We eat well, live well." She feels critics should hold off and look at her new life, steak in the evening with her son, ordinariness by the bucket. Over Christmas, they'll be doing all the things families do. "We'll probably invite a friend and have turkey."

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Game fish
 - Tiffs
 - "Rosebud", for one
 - Opposed
 - Fortune-telling card
 - English poet Alexander —
 - Grasped
 - Hersey's "A Bell for —"
 - Related
 - Mrs. Arnold's breakfast query?
 - Carry
 - Lamb's me
 - Reduce to a pure state
 - Inlamous
 - Marquis de —
 - Little devil
 - Paradise
 - Peper quantity
 - One of the media
 - The "Emerald Isle"
 - Ornat orchid tubers
 - Goodman theme: "Dance"
 - Curtail, as a budget
 - Of sound mind
 - Loaf
 - Slippery ona
 - Under the covers
 - Bread variety
 - Penod
 - Eggs, Roman style
 - Host's after-dinner query to Bell?
 - Carry on, in a way
 - Excuse
- DOWN**
- Cod or Hatteras
 - Mejor follower
 - Demolished
 - Odd's opposite
 - Peteriorate
 - From use
 - Revolution patriot Silas —
 - Future flower
 - Thal money
 - Once more
 - Caen's neighbor
 - Football coach's purfious
 - Toters
 - Mod's diga
 - Graceful horse
 - Hollywood's Franchot
 - Pelted with rocks
 - Fictional detective
 - Norse god
 - Haroc poem
 - Fander blemish
 - Springfield rifle, for one
 - Pitcher
 - Singer Della
 - Roman official
 - Wild
 - Dinner course
 - Prayer ending
 - Notions
 - Actress Gaynor
 - German name for Poznan
 - Comfort
 - Confederations
 - Kind of blonde?
 - Difficult
 - Civil Rights leader — Rustin
 - Hollywood's Gardner
 - Stage direction
 - Prepare tea
 - Assess
 - Theatrical org.
 - Wings
 - Minnelli
 - Even, level: Ger.
 - Musician
 - Brubeck
 - Fencer's blade
 - Rip

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

MANISE USMA SKIN
OMITS NAIL PANIE
SIDESADOLE ARIA
SEEPAGES MARMOT
SYN ALASKANS
MIMOSA CANAL
OVEN TIKI MECCA
PAL EN RCA OAT
ENTAD OISH BILK
EDWIN OSELLA
OPERAAT RUN
PHRASE RHUBARBS
HINT EQUESTRIAN
ILLIE LUOL LEORA
ROES SEER ESTOP

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
OPEN THE NORTH-EAST PASSAGE

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 2
♥ Q 10 7 3
♦ 9 6 5 4 2
♣ K 5 2

WEST
♠ A
♥ 8 4
♦ K Q J 10 8 3
♣ Q 10 8 7

EAST
♠ 9 7 5 4
♥ J 9 6 5 2
♦ 7
♣ A 9 4

SOUTH
♠ K Q J 10 8 6 3
♥ A K
♦ A
♣ J 6 3

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	2 ♦	Pass	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: King of ♦

We've all heard that, at times, you have to take one step backward to take two steps forward. This hand is surely the bridge equivalent of that principle.

There are those who would open the South hand with a demand bid. While we are not strongly opposed to such action, our personal taste is for slightly more in the way of high cards for such action. We like the way South bid his hand, and have

even higher regard for the way he played his four-spade contract!

West made his normal opening lead of the king of diamonds, taken by the ace. It would seem that, since dummy is entryless, the contract hinges on finding West with the ace of clubs. After the early play revealed that East had more trumps than West, and that West had started with six diamonds, declarer found a hidden line that guaranteed the contract. It involved losing an unnecessary trick, but getting back two in return.

The king of spades forced the ace, and declarer took care to ruff the diamond return with the six as East failed to follow. When West showed out on the queen of spades, declarer could claim his contract. He cashed the jack of trumps and ace-king of hearts, then threw East on lead by exiting with the three of trumps!

Poor East was faced with losing alternatives. A heart return would be into dummy's tenace, allowing declarer to discard two club losers. And a club would make the king of clubs an entry for declarer to take a discard on the queen of hearts. Either way, declarer would lose only two trump tricks and a club.

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 21 - April 18)

You should do all you can to maintain harmony with those around you. You should not take part in intrigue. You will be able to acquire a bargain; make sure it is something you really want.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

You will have a good idea which can be applied to the current situation. Now is the time to take the initiative. You should leave yourself with enough time for your personal affairs. Be cordial.



Gemini (May 21 - June 21)

You will have a good opportunity but will have to act fast if you do not want to miss it. You should not be tempted to spend more than you can readily afford. Your private life will take a turn for the better.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

You will not be quite sure of yourself and should pause for thought. You should take other people's opinions fully into account. You will have to make a few changes in your working procedure.



Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)

Today you will have some personal success but you must not allow it to go to your head. Do not do anything that might upset your partner. Try hard to avoid losing your temper. Be tactful.



Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)

Do not pay too much attention to something you have overheard. You should not take everything quite so personally. You will tend to be a little nervous and impatient and should try to act accordingly.



Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)

The Moon's more favourable influence in harmony with that of Mercury will help you to overcome an obstacle. You should pay a little more attention to your state of health.



Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

The situation you are in will take a turn for the better. You will be able to deal with a persistent problem provided you show determination and do not dither.



Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

The stellar influences are a little mixed and extreme caution is needed. You should try to tread a middle path between extremes.



Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

The situation is not as clear as you think it is, so look out for hidden snags. You should not accept more commitments than you can cope with just now.



Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

You will have a good idea which will help you to deal with an abiding problem. You will be better able to pursue your cultural interests and should do so.



Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)

You should try to show a little more goodwill. A personal project will be held up but elsewhere all will go well. Do not permit yourself to be so easily discouraged. Be sincere.

Dear Junior Readers,

Many of you enjoy reading and have learned that your school library is an excellent source of reading material.

Another important source of reading material is your daily newspaper. A newspaper gives you a wide variety of information. You can read about current world events on the front page, feature pages include light reading and, for sports enthusiasts, there are the sports pages.

Next time you want to read, remember the newspaper. You will be amazed at how much you will learn from reading it.

Aunt Barbara

Save the world

With frightening flames the cannons roared,
On blazing wings the bombers soared.
We stared with horror-stricken eyes,
As the earth was destroyed twice.
Hiroshima went up in flames,
The children ceased to play their games.
Will they destroy the earth again?
And leave us here in misery and pain?
Over the conference tables they talk,
And yet with wicked minds they stalk.
Our pleas for peace all prove futile,
Each passing day creates one missile.
A war today will mean the end,
Never again will I see my friend.
How can we stop the approaching doom?
In our hearts we must make room.
Black, white, red, or yellow—
The path of peace we all must go.
We must love each other dear,
And live each day without any fear.

By Nizhat Jabeen Mushtaq
Class XI GSC
Pakistan School and College
Rumailhiya

Firsts and lasts

The first people to use the eagle as a symbol of power and monarchy were the ancient Etruscans.

The great painter and inventor Leonardo da Vinci invented the scissors.

The word 'tip' originated in pubs where the words To Insure Promptness were often displayed to customers during the seventeenth century. Tip comes from the initial letters of these three words.

Women over the age of 21 were first allowed to vote in England in 1928.

The Graf Zeppelin was the first air-ship to fly right around the world. This historic event happened in 1929 and took 21 days and 7 1/2 hours.

The first guns took so long to load and fire that it was found that bows and arrows were as much as twelve times more efficient.

Napoleon had the first idea of digging the Suez Canal one hundred years before the English actually did.

The first Oxford English Dictionary was published on 1 February, 1884, after twenty years of work.

The word 'trillion' was first used in 1484.

The first known rhubarb came from China in 2700 BC.

The first 'Peeping Tom' was a tailor. The cruel husband of Lady Godiva declared he would only lift a large tax from the people of Coventry if his wife rode naked through streets. She agreed, but the citizens foiled the wicked Earl by shutting up their houses so that no one saw their beloved Lady. Except Tom who peeped and was struck blind by God.

Doctor, doctor

Doctor, doctor, will you give me something for my head?
Thanks all the same — I already have one.

Doctor, doctor, what are my chances of losing weight?
Slim, madam.

Doctor, doctor, my head is splitting.
Let me ask you one or two questions.

Doctor, doctor, I feel like a tomato.
That's enough of your sauce!

Doctor, doctor, I keep thinking I'm a car.
You must be going round the bend.

Doctor, doctor, every time I drink a cup of tea, I get a stabbing pain in my right eye.
Try taking the spoon out of the cup first.

Doctor, doctor, I keep thinking I'm a bridge.
What's come over you?
Two buses, three cars and a lorry.

Doctor, doctor, I keep thinking I'm Big Ben.
Hold on — I've only got one pair of hands.

Doctor, doctor, what's the best way to stop my nose running?
Stand on your head.

Doctor, doctor, I have trouble getting to sleep at night.
Lie on the edge of the bed — you'll soon drop off.

Doctor, doctor, I can't stop shop-lifting.
Have you taken anything for it?

Doctor, doctor, I keep seeing purple and yellow spots.
Have you seen a psychiatrist?
No — just purple and yellow spots.

Doctor, doctor, I keep imagining I'm Mozart.
I'll be with you in a minute.

OF all the tales in Fairyland — and there have been a few, they tell just one that always seems to please. It's quite a simple story, which I'd like to tell to you. Of the little mouse who never could eat cheese.

This little mouse lived in a house, not very far away. He wasn't very happy, for they teased him night and day. The other mice would all make fun and every

The mouse who couldn't eat cheese

chance they'd seize.

To laugh at him, and all because he just could not eat cheese.

Because he was so timid (Whiskers was his name).

All the other mice would say, that he had brought them shame.

They'd budger him and fight with him, and bring him to his knees.

And all because this lit-

tle mouse just never could eat cheese.

Underneath the floorboards they would scamper all the day.

The older mice would sit and watch the younger ones at play.

Then late at night, when all was dark they'd all come out to roam.

Except poor little Whiskers — for they made him stay at home.

"It is no use bringing him," they cried. "He'll change his mind perhaps, When we have had a feast from all the cheese inside the traps."

Then off went all the other mice, to see what they could find.

And left poor little Whiskers all alone to stay behind.

The time went by, the clock struck two, the pantry was a mess.



The curse of the lost idol

ANNIE knew she had found the right room. It was full of people talking at the top of their voices. Annie's heart sank. They were a very odd lot and one or two looked distinctly suspicious.

Annie slunk into a corner sipping a delicious Nile

Nectar cocktail. On a small table, she noticed a sheet of thick notepaper. It was a passenger list. What made it interesting were the cryptic comments beside each name.

Trying hard not to stare, Annie began fitting the names on the list with the

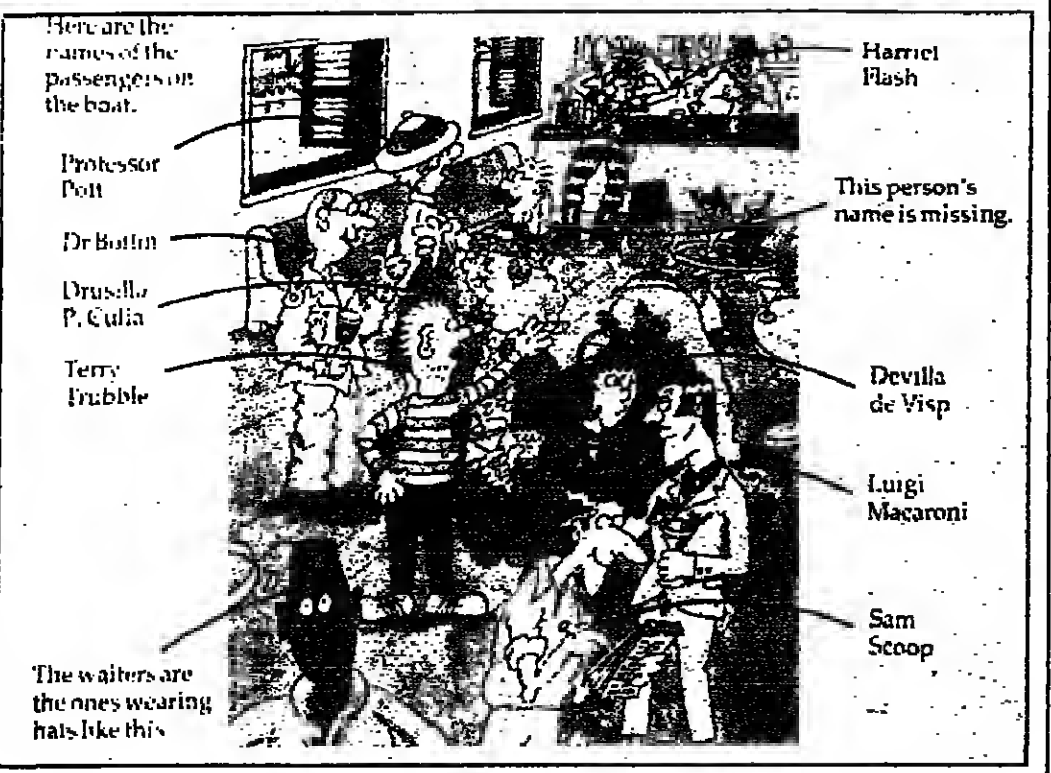
faces in the room. It wasn't too difficult, but one thing puzzled her, apart from the waiters, there was one man missing.

You can see the passenger list below.

Fit the names to the faces.

Whose name is missing?

Annie — inquisitive and good at puzzle solving
Devilla de Visp — very fond of gold jewellery
Dr Boffin — expert on Egyptian idols
Terry Trubble — ex-bank robber with a stutter
Luigi Macaroni — suspicious character with an Italian accent
Drusilla P. Culia — ancient curses fanatic — wears strange flowery clothes
Professor Pott — brilliant archaeologist
Sam Scoop — Daily wheeze reporter — does anything for a good newspaper story
Harriet Flash — Daily wheeze photographer — good friend of Sam Scoop



Students' corner

K.E.S. Juniors visit Arab Times



Fifty-five Junior 4 students from Kuwait English School visited the Arab Times on Sunday. The students, accompanied by Junior Headteacher Ian Robertson and classroom teachers, were shown the various aspects of printing a newspaper. The students and teachers are pictured in front of the printing presses (above) and in the typesetting room (below).

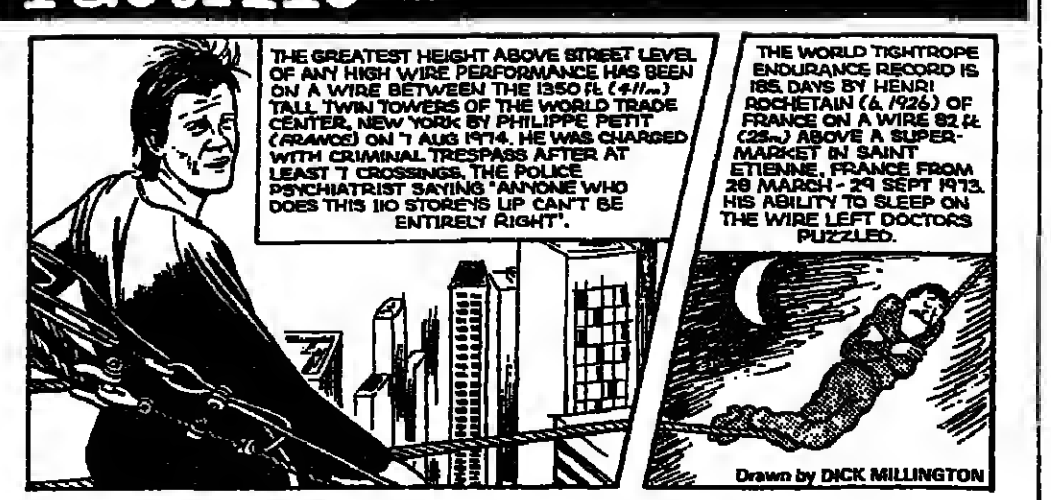


French School win soccer tournament



The French School Kuwait 12-year olds were the winners of the recent football tournament organised by the Kuwait Foreign School Athletic Conference. The team is pictured above with their coach.

Factfile FROM THE GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS



ARAB TIMES Classifieds

MARKET PLACE

ACCOMMODATION Available

RUMATHIYA, rooms and apartment for bachelors and couples, preferably Filipinos and Indians. Tel. Emelie, 5631718, from 8am-1pm. (AT3-39958-6)

FAHAHEEL, near Gulf Pharmacy. Spacious independent room for a South Indian bachelor or a working girl. Rent KD45. Tel. 3924440. (AT2-40012-3)

SHAMIYA, House 42, opp German Embassy, Al Mamoun Street, Area 3, near Jamaiya. 2 rooms with separate kitchen and phone facilities. Tel. Arif, 4814087. (AT3-40028-3)

FAHAHEEL, Makkah Street, near Sadaf Pharmacy. One large room for one bachelor, Hindu/Christian, to share with another Indian bachelor. Rent KD35. Tel. Fred, 3922169 after 2pm. (AT3-40037-3)

KUWAIT City, opp G.P.O., Fahad Al Salem Street. Accommodation for a Goan or Mangalorean bachelor to share with a Goan family. Rent KD40. Tel. Sequiera, 2410871. (AT4-40043-3)

KEIFAN, near stadium, sharing accommodation for bachelors. Bus routes 21, 42, 31. Tel. Lawrence, 5813281. Franky, 4831955 ext. 439. (AT3-40029-3)

JULEBB Al Shiyyokh, opp. petrol station. Sharing accommodation in a single bedroom flat, fully furnished, for one bachelor preferably Bangladeshi. from 1.188. Rent KD45. Tel. 4896000 ext. 3807. (AT3-40038-3)

SHAAB, near Jamaiya, House 8, Block 3, Street 36. One room with kitchen and bathroom for a small family, working girls or bachelors. Tel. Pinto, 2422238. Mornings only. (AT3-40016-3)

KEIFAN, Area 1, Street 12, House 16. Accommodation for one or two Catholic bachelors to share with another Goan bachelor. Bus routes 20, 22, 23. Tel. Delfino, 3295445 ext. 1610, 7.30am-1.15pm. (AT3-40055-3)

SALMIYA, two bedrooms and a storeroom in a furnished flat. Close to the bus stop. Bus No 19 and 30. Rent KD140. Tel. 5747392, from 8.30 am - 5.30 pm. (AT4-40041-3)

FARWANIYA, behind Holiday Inn, Building 6, Flat 6, 1st floor. One room with kitchen facilities for two Indian bachelors, to share with a Goan family. Tel. Catarina, 4841554, 4833770, 8 am - 12.30 pm and 4-7 pm. (AT3-40049-3)

FARWANIYA, main street. One room for a Mangalorean or Goan bachelor to share with another bachelor and a Goan family from 1st January 1988. Tel. 4744150, Res. after 2 pm. (AT4-40064-1)

DASMA, Area 1, Street 18, House 3. Two rooms for small families or working ladies. Tel. Zafar Mahmood, 2404223. (AT3-40060-3)

FOR SALE

Cars

MITSUBISHI Sapporo 1982, white, automatic transmission, electric windows, electric sunroof, in good condition. KD575. Tel. Mr. Nigel, 2410918, 2419204, 2410039 from 8 am - 4pm. (AT6-39963-6)

IMPALA, 77 model, registered upto November 88. KD350, ono. Tel. 3904734, Res. (AT3-40024-3)

JAGUAR XJ-S, H.E., 1982, AC, automatic, blue, 12 cylinders, needs some work. KD2000, ono. Tel. Chuck, 3901575 ext 10, after 5 pm. (AT3-40036-3)

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AUDI 100 CD, 1979 model. AC, automatic, green metallic, new tyres, new exhaust and better in excellent condition. KD480 cash. Tel. John Brand 5749038, after 2.30 pm. (AT4-40061-3)

MITSUBISHI Lancer, 84 model, automatic. Also Chevrolet Spectrum (Corona design) 86 model, in excellent condition. Tel. 2401514. (AT4-40063-1)

HONDA Accord 1982. Hatchback, dark blue, full options, automatic, sunroof, electric windows, AC. In good condition. Owner leaving Kuwait. KD800, negotiable. Tel. 245977 ext 3843, from 8.30 am - 12.30 pm. (AT4-40048-3)

TOYOTA Cressida GL 83 model, fully automatic, 59000 kms. Also Chevrolet Impala, 83 model, fully automatic. Both cars are in excellent condition. KD1450 each ono. Tel. 2642787. (AT4-40074-3)

TOYOTA Corolla DX 1300, 1985, manual in excellent condition. Tel. Mr. Sharma, 2533315, 8 am - 2pm and 5380361, after 3pm. (AT2-40014-3)

GMC Jimmy, with winch, registered till December 1988, in good roadworthy condition. Tel. 3901575, ext. 11, evenings. (AT3-40038-3)

Furniture

HOUSEHOLD furniture, Ikea bedroom and saloon. Kitchen equipment, used only 4 months. Tel. Rashid Kamal or Anan 5634200. (AT2-40021-3)

Miscellaneous

NATIONAL NV390 video recorder, KD95, Akai Vc-P1 Ev. video player KD50, used for 2 years. 1 1/2 ton Gibson and General AC's used 4 years, KD55 each. Tel. 2459771 ext 3843, from 8.30 am - 12.30 pm. (AT4-40048-3)

MISTRAL '86, Malibu sailboard, complete with 6.0 masq Camber Line world cup sail. (Camber inducer system). KD250. Tel. 5382658/9. (AT3-40027-3)

NUGRA, two bedrooms and a hall in a large flat available with fixtures and tele. Rent KD150. Also car Dodge Aries 1981, 51,000 kms. Best offers secure. Tel. Vaswani, 2631681, after 4pm. (AT3-40025-3)

THE New Encyclopaedia Britannica 1986 copyright, 32 volumes, new, still in original carton. KD250. Tel. 5386420, from 7 - 10 pm. (AT3-40026-3)

2 BEDROOM, Central AC, in Rig-gae with tele for sale. Also brand new furniture. New rent KD160. Owner leaving Kuwait. Tel. Russell French, 4890648, after 2.15 pm. (AT3-40032-3)

ROLEX Oyster perpetual datejust wristwatch, stainless steel and 18kt gold bracelet, brand new, unused, full guarantee, original receipt. Original cost KD780. Best offer. Tel. 2551192, evenings. (AT3-40035-3)

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MAID required immediately for an Indian family to live-in, at Farwaniya. Must have a transferable visa. Tel. 4719190. (AT3-40020-3)

MAID required, for a small Kuwaiti family to live-in. Must have a transferable visa. Tel. Mr. Mani, 4832308. (AT3-40053-3)

MAID required, Sri Lankan or Filipino for a family full-time or part-time. Must have a transferable visa. Tel. Mohd Mazi 5659900, 2-10pm. (AT3-40051-3)

BRITISH/American lady required to collect child aged 4 years from the Kuwait English School at 11.50 am and mind until 2.45 pm. Tel. 5382502. (AT3-40038-3)

MAID required, for a family, to live-in near Sabah Hospital. Must be experienced and speak English or Arabic. Must have a transferable visa. Salary KD40. Tel. 4873370, 8-10 pm (evening only) (AT2-40023-3)

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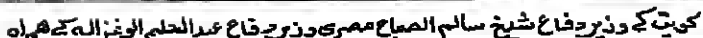
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کورازو سے ایکینو

[illegible]

یوگنڈا اور کینیا میں سرحدی جھڑپ

نیز برقی ۱۴۔ رمبر دھاپا مشرقی افریقہ کے دو ملکو
 لکھنؤ اور کینیا کی فوجوں کے درمیان ایک سرحدی جھڑپ
 کی اطلاع ملی ہے۔ کینیا نے لکھنؤ پر فوجی مداخلت کرنے کے
 الزام لگایا ہے۔ جبکہ لکھنؤ کی مشرقی برصغیر کے ایک فوجی
 فون پر انڈیو میں بتایا کہ فرانک گاتیتا روماریا ہے
 میں، انڈیو لکھنؤ کی فوجی ترجمان نے کینیا کے اس الزام
 ردی علی ہے کہ لکھنؤ کے فوجی کینیا بھیجے گئے ہیں۔

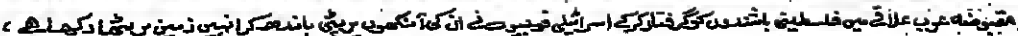
بند پولیس کو چوکنا کر دیا کیونکہ غیر مسلح تھے کیونکہ وہ جو ٹنگ کر رہے تھے تاہم ان

ایک مسلح علاقہ وہاں موجود قلعہ اور اس کے ارد گردی کے گاؤں سے زخمی ہو گیا۔ اس سے حملہ خیر میں اس علاقہ کے مجرموں کو ہلاک ہونے کی اطلاع دی گئی تھی۔ پولیس کا کہنا ہے کہ علاقہ کے بعض انسانی ریوٹ آف اسپورٹس میں کل سالہ گرفتار ہوئے۔

نہایت پرستش کے ساتھ کہتا ہے کہ مستقبل کے خدایاز کو متحجی ہونے

[illegible][illegible]

غدر مظلوم اسرائیلی فوجوں کی فائبرنگ سے ایک فلسطینی باشندہ ہلاک، بارہ زخمی ہو گئے

[illegible]

حکومت کے انرجیا میں اضافہ باعث تشویش ہے

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 حکومت نے حکومت کو خبردار کیا ہے کہ وہ اسلام آباد
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[illegible]

بند پولیس کو چوکنا کر دیا کیونکہ غیر مسلح تھے کیونکہ وہ جو ٹنگ کر رہے تھے تاہم ان

ایک مسلح علاقہ وہاں موجود تھا۔ اس کے انتہائی بدوں کی کاروائیوں سے زخمی ہو گیا۔ اس سے حملہ خیر میں اس علاقہ کے مجرموں کے ہاتھ لاک ہوئے کی اطلاع دی گئی تھی۔ پولیس کا کہنا ہے کہ علاقہ کے بعض انسانی ٹیوٹ آف اسپورٹس میں کل سالہ بچے ۱۹۶۳ء سے ۱۹۶۴ء

مستقبلاً کے خلاء یا زکوۃ گاہوں پر ایسے

نہایت پرستش کے ساتھ لکھا ہے کہ مسیحی کے خلاف ہونے والے مظالم کے بارے میں اللہ تعالیٰ کو مطلع کیا جائے گا۔

[illegible]

آپ نے ایک کونین بنی شان کے لئے اللہ تعالیٰ سے دعا کی ہے کہ وہ اسے شہرہ کتبہ

[illegible]

ایک بیکھارتی خوجی کو ہلاک اور اکر کو بھی کر دیا
ایک قہرے کو دل میں پیش آیا۔ ان حکام نے تاناکا کو تامل

[illegible]

کھڑے ہو کر دیکھو کہ کیا اعلان کر دیا
نے اطلاع دی ہے کہ انتخابات کی تیاریوں کے سلسلے میں
پاکستان کیلکشن کمیشن نے رائے ورنہ کان کی آواز کو غیر
تیار کرنے کا اعلان کیا ہے۔ واضح رہے کہ اپوزیشن کی
پارٹیشن صدر ارشد کے متعلق بھی یہ نکتہ ایکشن میں حصہ

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کی اطلاع دی ہے۔ ان حکام نے بتایا کہ لڑیں پانچ روز کے
اور انہیں نے گزشتہ روز ملک کے مشرقی علاقے میں بھارتی
قوتی قافلے کے ساتھ ہمارے درمیان سرحد صوبہ کر دی جس
کے پیچھے سے ایک بھارتی قومی ہلاک اور دو زخمی ہوئے۔
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[illegible]

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MINNESOTA LOSE AT GREEN BAY

Three-way tie in AFC East for top spot

NEW YORK, Dec 14, (AP): The AFC East jumble, which has featured everything from two-way to five-way ties, now has three teams atop the division with two weeks left in the NFL season.

Buffalo beat Indianapolis 27-3 yesterday, while Miami took Philadelphia 28-10. That put the Bills, Colts and Dolphins at 7-6. New England beat the New York Jets 42-20.

The three-way tie in the AFC Central was reduced to two teams when Cleveland defeated Cincinnati 38-20, Pittsburgh beat San Diego 20-16 and New Orleans knocked out Houston with a 24-10 victory.

But things got tighter in the AFC West with Seattle's 28-21 victory over Denver. The Seahawks are a half-game behind Denver and tied with the Chargers.

Minnesota, seeking to join New Orleans as an NFC wild-card team, was stymied yesterday when it lost at Green Bay 16-10. St. Louis and the Los Angeles Rams stayed in wild-card con-

tion, however.

The Cardinals outlasted the New York Giants 27-24, while the Rams beat Atlanta 33-0.

NFC East winner Washington beat Dallas 24-20. In other games, it was Kansas City 16, the Los Angeles Raiders 10, and Detroit 20, Tampa Bay 10.

San Francisco was to host Chicago this evening. Both teams have clinched NFC playoff spots.

Bills 27, Colts 3
An overwhelming defense and the passing of Jim Kelly were too much for Indianapolis, which had sole possession of the AFC East lead entering the game. The Colts, who had only 130 yards total offense, did not convert a third-down attempt and lost the ball four times on interceptions and twice on fumbles.

Dolphins 28, Eagles 10
Dan Marino is up the NFL's worst pass defense for 376 yards and three touchdowns. Although sacked three times, he completed 25 of 39 passes, including two touchdown passes to Mark Clayton and one to Mark Duper.

Patriots 42, Jets 20

New England stayed alive in the AFC East scramble as Steve Grogan, sidelined for the previous three games, picked apart New York's injury-riddled secondary with four touchdown passes in the first half.

Browns 38, Bengals 24
Bernie Kosar threw a career-high four touchdown passes, three during a 28-point second quarter, giving him at least one TD pass in 15 consecutive games. Webster Slaughter caught scoring passes of 22 and 18 yards and Kevin Mack and Derek Tennell each caught 2-yarders.

Steelers 20, Chargers 16
Despite Dan Fouts' League record 51st 300-yard passing game (29-for-52 for 334 yards), the Chargers lost their fourth straight game. Mark Malone and Frank Pollard each rushed for a score in unusually cold, windy conditions at San Diego.

Saints 24, Oilers 10
New Orleans, which clinched its first playoff berth last week, continued to push the 49ers in the NFC West. Bobby Hebert, in his biggest NFL day, threw two touch-

down passes to Eric Martin and one to Lonzell Hill.

Seahawks 28, Broncos 21
Dave Krieg threw three touchdown passes, including a 40-yarder to Raymond Butler on a flea-flicker in the third quarter. After Denver had scored twice in just over two minutes to erase a 14-0 halftime deficit, Krieg handed to Curt Warner, who handed to Steve Largent, who flipped back to Krieg. He found Butler alone behind the Denver secondary.

Packers 16, Vikings 10
Kenneth Davis ran seven yards for a touchdown with 1:09 to play, capping a 72-yard drive for Green Bay. For the fourth straight week, Wade Wilson replaced Tommy Kramer at quarterback for the Vikings.

Cardinals 27, Giants 24
Vui Sikahema scored on a 76-yard punt return and set up a second touchdown with a 48-yard kickoff return in what might have been the Cardinals' final game at Busch stadium, who are considering a move to another city.

Rams 33, Falcons 0
Charlie White continued his

run to the League rushing with 159 yards and scored twice, from the 4 and 21. White has 1,213 yards this season, 236 more than Dickerson, who started ahead of him before being traded to Indianapolis.

Redskins 24, Cowboys 20
Gary Clark provided the air assault with nine catches for 187 yards and a TD, while George Rogers led the ground game with a pair of 1-yard scores.

Chiefs 16, Raiders 10
While heralded rookie Bo Jackson sat out most of his return to Kansas City — he plays baseball there for the Royals — Bill Kenney threw a 67-yard touchdown pass to Carlos Carson and Nick Lowery kicked three field goals.

Lions 20, Buccaneers 10
In the first meeting between two highly touted young quarterbacks, Chuck Long led Detroit past Vinny Testaverde and Tampa Bay. Long threw an 8-yard touchdown pass to Pete Mandley, who leads Detroit with 50 receptions, and has six touchdown catches.

Hulbert and Tway hold on for victory

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla., Dec 14, (Reuters): Bob Tway and Mike Hulbert, after starting the final round with a five-stroke lead, held on to win the \$600,000 PGA Tour Championship by one stroke over fellow-Americans Fred Couples and Mike Donald yesterday.

Tway and Hulbert shot a final round six-under-par 66 on the Palm Beach Polo and Country Club course for a 38-under-par total of 250. They split the \$100,000 top prize.

Couples and Donald posted a 10-under 62 yesterday but fell one stroke short of forcing a playoff with a 251 total. They split \$57,000 for their efforts.

Americans Gary Hallberg and Scott Hoch, who started the day even with Couples and Donald five strokes behind the leaders, shot a nine-under 63 to finish in third place at 36-under-par 252.

Carry

"I thought going to the first tee that we would need to get to 40-under-par to carry us through. It was tough to keep up the pace that we were going at the first couple of days," Hulbert said.

The winners birdied the first two holes then recorded their first hole in two years of this event on the third.

"I had a sick feeling after that happened but it wasn't like we were going one back because we were still under par," said Hulbert. "We just didn't get it going after that until Bob hit the wedge in for an eagle on the eighth," he added.

Donald was disappointed with his showing.

"I must have been still asleep on the front nine. The weather was perfect for scoring and I couldn't hit any greens on the front," he said.

Senior golf

KAANAPALI, Hawaii, Dec 14, (AP): Orville Moody shot a 5-under-par 67 yesterday to beat former National Football League quarterback John Brodie by two strokes and win the rain-shortened Kaanapali Senior Classic golf tournament, the final official event of the Senior PGA Tour.

Hussein triumphs in Honolulu marathon

HONOLULU, Hawaii, Dec 14, (Reuters): Ibrahim Hussein of Kenya battled strong winds, rain and high humidity to win his third straight Honolulu marathon yesterday in two hours 18 minutes 26 seconds.

Carla Beurskens of the Netherlands, despite twisting her left ankle walking to the starting line, kept a similar streak alive as she won the women's race for the third consecutive year. Beurskens' winning time was 2:35:11.

Bolted
Hussein, who won the New York marathon on November 1, bolted from the pack near the four mile mark and never gave up the lead.

Just over a minute after Hussein crossed the finish line, Gidamis Shuhanga of Tanzania came in second in 2:19:36.

American William Reissnyder of the US was third in 2:21:09 and his compatriot Doug Kurtis clocked 2:24:06 for fourth, just ahead of Japan's Yoshihiko Morioka who crossed the line in 2:24:52.

A field of some 9,000 runners began the race before dawn. Intermittent rain and head winds that at times reached 48 km per hour thwarted the 29-year-old Hussein's attempt to break the Honolulu record of 2:11:23 that he set last year.

"There was a point at about 20 miles where I said forget it (the record). I just wanted to win the race," Hussein said. "I'm light and so the strong head winds really affected me." Suleiman



Hussein: makes it three in a row

he set last year.

Nyambui of Tanzania, who was expected to push Hussein, dropped out of the race at the five-mile point after pulling the hamstring muscle in his left leg.

Beurskens pulled away from American Lisa Wiedenbach and

opened her lead just past the half-way point.

"At about the halfway point one of the men runners told me 'She's (Wiedenbach) closing up on you and the next time I checked it was 50 metres then 100 metres,'" Beurskens said of the gap she had opened.

Weidenbach finished second in 2:37:43. Kellie Cathey of the US was third in 2:43:55 and compatriot Cyndie Welte finished fourth in 2:45:25.

Meanwhile, Kip Keino of Kenya and American Jim Rynn turned the clock back for a few nostalgic minutes at the weekend for a race that 20 years earlier would have had the attention of the world.

Beaten

The pair lined up on Waikiki Beach Road for a special match mile, organised to coincide with the Honolulu marathon.

It gave Rynn the opportunity for long-awaited revenge for being beaten into second place in the 1968 Olympics in Mexico. Now aged 40, he strode home in four minutes 33.5 seconds, well ahead of 47-year-old Keino who clocked 4:49.4.

"I thought we were running faster than we did," Rynn said afterwards. "I guess that is just reality."

Lakers rally to edge Cavaliers

NEW YORK, Dec 14, (AP): For one half against the Cleveland Cavaliers, the Los Angeles Lakers looked like anything but defending NBA champions.

The Lakers had 19 turnovers, shot 39.4 per cent and trailed by as many as 11 points in the first half yesterday in their first home appearance following a five-game Eastern road trip.

"Our passing in the first half was comical," coach Pat Riley said after the Lakers came back to defeat the Cavaliers 90-89. "At halftime, I didn't have to yell and scream. I just wrote the number 19 (turnovers) on the blackboard. I thought we played a solid second half."

James Worthy, who finished with 20 points but had seven of his nine turnovers in the first half, made a driving basket with 33 seconds left for the game's final points.

In the only other NBA games last night, Dallas defeated Milwaukee 113-99 and Atlanta beat

Sacramento 106-100.

Mavericks 113, Bucks 99
Dallas won its fifth straight game, outscoring Milwaukee 43-29 in the fourth quarter as Sam Perkins scored 11 of his 21 points in the period. Mark Aguirre had 20 points for the Mavericks.

Hawks 106, Kings 100
Atlanta handed Sacramento its eighth consecutive defeat as Dominique Wilkins continued his hot streak with 28 points. The Hawks took their biggest lead at 85-62 with 11:27 left in the game, but a 36-16 spurt by the Kings brought them within three with 26 seconds remaining. Reggie Theus, who finished with a season-high 35 points, sparked the Sacramento rally.

Meanwhile the Houston Rockets broke up their "Twin Towers" by sending 7-foot-4 Ralph Sampson to the Golden State Warriors and received two all-star players, 7-foot Joe Barry Carroll and guard Sleepy Floyd, in a blockbuster NBA trade over

the weekend.

"We're heading this franchise in a different direction," said Don Nelson, the Warriors' executive vice president, after Saturday night's announcement of the trade. "We're starting with the most important piece, the big man in the middle. Ralph Sampson is one of the top five centres in the League."

Golden State also received Al Harris, a reserve guard, in the deal. Sampson was a power forward with Houston, which used all-star Akeem Olajuwon at centre. Now Carroll, the Warriors' starting centre for seven seasons, probably will be the forward half of a new "Twin Towers" combination at Houston.

The trade was announced just after the Warriors' record dropped to 3-15, second worst in the NBA, with a 127-93 loss to the Utah Jazz in Salt Lake City. The Warriors reached the playoffs last year for the first time in 10 seasons.

Philadelphia edge Winnipeg

NEW YORK, Dec 14, (AP): Just because the Philadelphia Flyers were down by two players, it didn't mean they were out of scoring opportunities.

At a 5-on-3 disadvantage because of a penalty to goaltender Ron Hextall, the Flyers still managed to get goal from Murray Craven late in the game for a 4-3 NHL victory over the Winnipeg Jets last night.

The shorthanded goal was the 10th scored this year against the Jets, who lead the league in such errors. It stopped a rally Winnipeg mounted midway through the period with two goals just 39 seconds apart.

"We just blew it," said Jets captain Dale Hawerchuk. "There's no excuse for giving up a goal when you have a 5-on-3 advantage and it cost us the game."

Results
Calgary 7 Buffalo 1
Philadelphia 4 Winnipeg 3
Chicago 5 Toronto 1



● Miloslav Mecir (right) and Tomas Smid of Czechoslovakia hold the winner's trophy after beating Americans Ken Flach and Robert Seguso in the final of the Masters Doubles at London's Royal Albert Hall on Sunday. (Reuters radiophoto)

Karpov takes time-out to postpone 23rd game

SEVILLE, Spain, Dec 14, (Reuters): Anatoly Karpov used his final time-out today to postpone the final showdown with Gary Kasparov in the World Chess Championship.

The 23rd game of the 24-game series was put back two days to Wednesday, with challenger Karpov having the advantage of the white pieces.

Retain
The score in the match is currently tied at 11-11, with three wins and 16 draws for each player. If the series ends 12-12, 24-year-old Kasparov will retain the title.

Most experts predicted Karpov's off-the-board move as it is essential for him to launch a well-prepared assault in his final game with the advantage of the first move.

Karpov, 36, has appeared to be the calmer of the two players during the final phase of the 10-week long war of nerves.

In the 22nd game, Kasparov abandoned his attempts to win with the white pieces after only 19 moves. Chess experts interpreted the champion's hesitancy as an illustration of the conventional wisdom that it is easier to attack a title than to defend it.

But besides Kasparov's

advantage of only needing two draws to retain the crown, he has always managed to rise to the occasion in the past.

Kasparov beat back an 11th-hour attack by Karpov in the final game of their 1985 match in Moscow to win the world title by 13-11.

Their 1986 encounter also ended in Kasparov's favour after he won the 22nd game to retain his title by a single point, having earlier frittered away a three-point advantage.

Today, Karpov's representative Vladimir Pischenko distributed an article to the press which predicted a victory for the challenger.

In an interview in the German weekly 'Der Spiegel', Soviet psychologist Tofik Dadashev, whom Kasparov has called his chess guru, revealed that he had advised Karpov before the match.

Present
Dadashev claimed that he gave Karpov three pieces of advice for the present match, and no longer is in contact with Kasparov.

"Karpov holds to my three suggestions, then he will be world champion — and he has held to them so far," Dadashev said.

US rout Soviet Selects

UNIONDALE, New York, Dec 14, (AP): Kevin Miller and Tony Granato each scored three goals to lead the US Olympic hockey team to a 13-2 rout of the Soviet Selects last night.

The victory, at the Nassau Coliseum, was the second in three games for the US team over the touring Soviets, as the Americans continued their preparations for the Winter Olympics.

Comprised

The US-Soviet series began Thursday night with an 8-5 victory by the Americans in Richfield, Ohio. The Selects, comprised mostly of players from the Leningrad Army team and containing few national team members, beat the Americans 6-4 in Cincinnati Saturday night.

Miller scored the go-head goal in the first period to help the US take a 4-1 lead and added two more in the second, when the Americans scored six times to take a 10-2 edge. Granato had a goal in the second period and two more in the third, both on the power play.

Igor Ivanov gave the Soviets a 1-0 lead with a 70-foot shot that beat US goaltender Chris Terreri at 4:28 of the first period.

The US team tied the game when Todd Okerlund deflected in a 60-foot shot by Brian Leetch at the six-minute mark.

Miller, Dave Snuggard and Corey Millen then scored to give the Americans a 4-1 lead after one period.

Miller scored on a scramble at 7:09 after taking a setup pass from Allen Bourbeau. Snuggard fired in a 30-footer at 14:59 and Millen tipped in a 60-footer by Greg Brown at 15:45.

Miller made it 5-1 28 seconds into the second period when he jammed the puck under Soviet goaltender Sergey Cherkas.

Cherkas, who gave up five goals on 13 shots, was replaced by Aleksander Tynnyr, but returned at the start of the third period.

Okerlund made it 6-1 when he scored from the right circle at 10:49.

The Soviets cut the US lead to 6-2 on a 20-foot goal by Aleksander Zyhlin at 15:31.

But the US team put the game away when Lane MacDonald scored at 15:46 and Jim Johannson added another goal 15 seconds later. Granato made it 9-2 at 19:10 and Miller scored on the power play at 19:59 to give the US team its 10-2 lead.

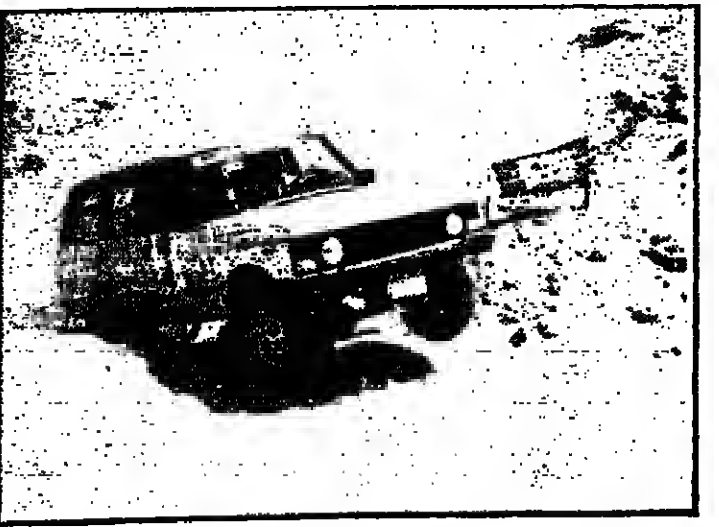
Al Hilal aims for win in Bahrain Jeep Rally

By Gail Seery

SEVEN Kuwaiti drivers will be competing in the Bahrain Jeep Rally on Friday. The event is the second round of the Marlboro Desert Challenge, a three-round series which kicked off with the IP Kuwait Jeep Rally in October.

A strong contender for the challenge title is Kuwait Drivers' champion Ahmed Al Hilal who on the Kuwait event with rampion navigator Fahad Al Ashood. Ahead on points, Al Hilal is now seeking a second win in Bahrain, which will set him up for the final round of the challenge, to take place in Jordan in December 30.

Battle
Hilal brought home his works pared and supported Mitsubishi Pajero first in Kuwait, but by 14 seconds ahead of fellow intyman Eid Falah, in his Al yari sponsored Range Rover. Drivers are in Bahrain practicing, and onlookers are expected to see a fierce battle between m. Eid Falah, whose cover for the Kuwait event, Ild Khalifa, has returned to live for Tareq Al Wazzan, who was expecting to have eq. Ashkanani as his co-driver in Bahrain, told the Arab



Eid Falah: expected to put up a fight

Times that he had strengthened his Range Rover for this event, and would be satisfied with nothing short of victory.

Also in Bahrain are the region's only husband and wife team, Tareq and Khuloud Alyan, who are currently in joint third position in their BP sponsored Daihatsu Rocky.

Tareq Al Wazzan, will be driving his Arab Times/Marlboro sponsored Range Rover, which was completely rebuilt by the specialist AAA Garage in Dubai

after the last event, in which it failed to finish due to trouble with broken shock absorbers. He recently came tenth in a standard Range Rover in the tough Dubai International, and can certainly be expected to do well in Bahrain. He told the Arab Times that he was aiming for a win, and with his wealth of experience, gained during some ten years of rallying at both local and international levels, he should provide some strong competition to challenge leaders.



Ibrahim Matter: Bahraini champion

Ahmed Al Zafri will be entering his Suzuki jeep, although he took the fastest stage time, during the Kuwait event, his hybrid vehicle, a Suzuki chassis with a RX7 engine, caught fire soon afterwards and forced his withdrawal. Once again, assuming he has ironed out the problems he experienced then, he is an accomplished driver who could well finish with a good result.

Novices Mubarak Al Omair and Fouad Al Rashid complete the septet. Whilst television per-

sonality Al Omair, in the Gold Ring Team Lada Niva, is not a likely winner of the event, he will be gaining valuable experience, and hopefully adding to the points he has already won.

Although the Kuwait entrants already have a good lead in the Challenge, their task is by no means easy. In joint third place at present is Ibrahim Matter, the Bahraini Champion, also driving a works prepared Pajero. This time he has the definite advantage of driving on home round.



Al Hilal: seeks to strengthen position

There are also two Range Rovers, and one Land Rover entered by local competitors, and drivers like Sheikh Ibrahim Al Khalifa can be expected to put up a good fight.

Impressed

Perhaps the strongest threat to Kuwait's challenge hopes comes from one of the region's better drivers, Qatari Jaber Al Marri, who is an ex-B seed, and from Abbas Al Mousawi, who has impressed onlookers with his driving skills in International events, but who has been dogged by bad luck this year. Both are very capable drivers who are experienced with 4wd vehicles.

The one vehicle which everyone will be waiting to see is the Lamborghini Jeep, with a staggering 450 bhp, which has been entered by Samir Kaki. His driving prowess is not known but he will have the experienced Mamdouh Khayat as his co-driver, as well as what is easily the most powerful jeep in the contest. Khayat is a former Group A Middle East Champion.

The rally comprises eight stages, totalling 100 kms. There is less soft sand than in Kuwait, and less opportunity for flat-out driving. The event starts at 7.30 am and will finish at 2.30 pm, and marks Bahrain's return to hosting international rally events.

Dissent and violence undermine English fair play

LONDON, Dec 14, (Reuters): The phrase "fair play" — once a byword for gentlemanly conduct in sport — is still recognised around the world as a term for a certain unbending code of honour both on and off the sports field.

But an associated term, "it's not cricket", was on the lips of many English commentators this week as they sought to explain the seeming demise of traditional values throughout English sport.

"It's a dangerous time and brings discredit to British sport when the sporting authorities have to reassert our traditional values," former British Sports Minister Denis Howell told Reuters. "The players have to acknowledge the primacy of the referees and umpires."

Regime
Violence, rule-breaking and abuse of officials would have been considered tantamount to blasphemy under the high-minded regime of "fair play" that characterised Victorian Britain's approach to sports.

But times are changing. "Sport is no longer this illusion of innocence, of fair play, of good fun for all. It's flat out — it's war games," said former British Olympic runner David Jenkins before pleading guilty in the United States in November to charges of taking part in an anabolic steroids smuggling ring.

Last Tuesday English cricket captain Mike Gatling and Pakistani umpire Shakoor Rana brought an international match to a standstill after a clash on the field of play over a disputed umpiring decision.

Their heated argument brought to a head a dispute between English players and Pakistani officials that had been simmering for most of the tour.

But it was also the last straw for commentators who had been warning of a crisis in British sporting values for months. "Whatever happened to sport?" ran the headline to an article by sports writer Ian Woolridge in the British Daily Mail newspaper last week.

The earling sports enthusiasts' — faith in the value of sport as recreation, fun and character-builder has been finally obliterated," Woolridge wrote.

Another columnist, Ken Jones of the Independent newspaper, asked: "Where are we entitled to ask, is sport going. How about the garbage can?"

Punished
In the first 15 weeks of the 1987-88 English soccer season, referees sent off a record 130 players.

A Rugby League match eight days ago in the Northern English town of York, five players were sent off after a brawl involving all 26 men on the pitch was joined by coaching staff and a director of one of the clubs.

Earlier that week defeated British boxer Bobby Frankham twice punched the referee at London's Wembley arena after he felt his bout had been prematurely stopped in the first round.

In November soccer player Steve Walsh of Second Division Leicester City received a nine-month suspension after breaking another player's jaw during a match in August.

Walsh's suspension followed a police decision earlier in the month to charge three English soccer internationals with "behaviour likely to cause a breach of the peace," after they were sent off for fighting during a Scottish League game between Glasgow rivals Rangers and Celtic.

English cricketer Chris Broad's refusal to leave the field when given out during the first Test against Pakistan at Lahore last month, and Mike Gatling's heated argument with umpire Shakoor Rana during the second match at Faisalabad last Tuesday, further served to undermine the old sporting ethos with which generations of English school children were imbued.

Preserve

"If the present situation is not arrested ... the game will be the poorer for it. We want to preserve the future of Test cricket, not to destroy it," said England cricket tour manager Peter Lush after the broad incident.

"Play up and play the game," remains the touchline cry of many sports masters and parents at school competitions up and down the country.

But the Duke of Wellington's celebrated remark about the sporting traditions of a famous English school — "The battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton" — may take on an ironic twist if the distinction between playing field and battleground becomes any less clear.

SPORTS

SPORTS BRIEFS

Brazil soccer

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, Dec 14, (AP): Beneath torrential rains, Flamengo of Rio de Janeiro yesterday took an unprecedented fourth Brazil National Championship title, defeating Internacional of Porto Alegre 1-0 before a cheering crowd of 90,000.

Rugby player

LONDON, Dec 14, (Reuters): Welsh Rugby Union international Glen Webb, injured playing for Public School Wanderers against a South Korean touring team yesterday, remained in hospital today.

Ski jumping

LAKE PLACID, New York, Dec 14, (AP): Czechoslovak Pavel Ploc made two 92-metre jumps to win yesterday, Subaru World Cup ski jumping championship 70-metre event, a day after he won the 90-metre event.

Top athlete

PRAGUE, Dec 14, (UPI): Ski jumper Jiri Parma was named as Czechoslovakia's top athlete for 1987 and the women's national volleyball team collected the team prize, following a poll of 200 sports journalists.

Scottish club

LONDON, Dec 14, (Reuters): Morton, bottom of the Scottish Premier League, have signed three Danish players in a bid to escape relegation. The trio are midfielder Thomas Jacobsen, from B1903, midfielder Lars Christiansen, and defender Carsten Margard, both of Odense.

UMO badminton

RAVI Mathew and K.S. Jose moved into the doubles finals of the United Malayalee Organisation (UMO) badminton tournament with a straight sets victory over P.T. Chacko and Satish yesterday.

In the second semifinal Johnson Varghese and Cherry George were taken to three sets by Sivakumar and George Chacko before they triumphed.

Today, in the singles quarter-finals, Ravi Mathew will meet A.C. Mathew while Cherry George takes on Sivakumar.

Malhotra Trophy

UNITY meet Starline in the semifinals of the Malhotra Trophy cricket tournament at the Ahmadi grounds on Friday at 9.00 am. Umpires will be from Falcon. In the second match of the same tournament, Kifco face Kokan at 1.00 pm. Umpires will be from Capri. Both the matches will be at the New ground. The tournament is being organised by Unity Cricketers.

Sheffield Shield

MELBOURNE, Dec 14, (Reuters): Victoria defeated South Australia by six wickets on the final day of the Sheffield Shield cricket match at the Melbourne Cricket Ground today.

Scores: Victoria 345 for four (J. Siddons 124 not out, P. Young 60) beat South Australia 468 and 158 for two declared (G. Bishop 82 not out) by six wickets.

Bridge

RESULTS of the Dunhill Bridge Tournament (15th week) played at the Mersin Beach Hotel on Sunday.

- N/S
1. Saad & Ghalander
2. Adly Tib & Ahmed
3. Ezzeldin & Sherin
E/W
1. Mrs Sapre & Simon and
Dr Adel & Mukerjee
3. Imam & Omar Alidid

AUSTRALIAN SKIPPER PULLS TEAM OUT OF TROUBLE

Border hammers Kiwis for 205

ADELAIDE, Dec 14, (Reuters): Allan Border became Australia's most prolific run scorer in Test cricket on the way to his first Test double century today.

The Australian captain's score reached 305 on the fourth day of the second Test against New Zealand and, as so often in the past, his innings pulled Australia out of trouble.

Border, 32, came to the wicket yesterday at 29 for two with Australia needing 286 to avoid the follow-on. By the time he was dismissed 10 hours later Australia were 417 for six and the match appeared destined for a draw.

Passed

At the close Australia were 496 for nine, a lead of 11 runs after New Zealand scored 485 for nine declared in their first innings.

During his innings yesterday Border passed the run total of two knights — Sir Leonard Hutton and Sir Donald Bradman.

Resuming at 105 this morning, Border and Peter Sleep eased Australia past the follow-on target in mid-morning before the Sydney-born batsman reached his seventh 150 in Tests.

In mid-afternoon Border, on 182, drove to long off to gain the three runs required to pass Chapman's total of 7,110.

He appeared more pleased by his double century, achieved with his favourite sweep shot.



Border: 7th on all-time list

pell's total of 7,110.

He appeared more pleased by his double century, achieved with his favourite sweep shot.

The two runs which took him to 201 were greeted with a punch in the air and a broad smile from the often taciturn Australian.

But minutes later Border advanced down the pitch, completely missed a delivery from John Bracewell and was stumped by Ian Smith who had an easier stumping chance when Border was on 57.

The Australian now ranks seventh in the all-time list with 7,131 Test runs. He is the only player among the top seven still playing and should pass the 7,249 runs of England's Wally Hammond later this summer.

India's Sunil Gavaskar tops the list with 10,122 runs.

"I need time to reflect on it but I feel a great sense of pride to have done it. I hope I've got a few more runs left in me," Border said later.

"It's all very well to beat records but my main aim out in the middle is to help Australia to maintain its recent good run," he added.

Border's feat overshadowed two gritty innings by lower order Australian batsmen.

Sleep scored a watchful 62, his second Test 50, and featured in a 154-run partnership with Border before he was caught behind off Danny Morrison.

Late in the day wicketkeeper Greg Dyer hit his first Test 50, including seven fours, before

being run out for 60 shortly before the close.

New Zealand's bowlers stuck to their task well in the 40 degree Celsius heat and Craig McDermott supplied Richard Hadlee with his fourth wicket of the match when he was lbw for 18. Hadlee has figures so far of four for 68 in 41 overs.

Australia won the first of the three Tests by nine wickets.

Scoreboard

NEW ZEALAND first innings 485 for nine declared (A. Jones 150, M. Crowe 137)

AUSTRALIA first innings (overnight 225 for four wickets)
G. Marsh c Gray b Hadlee 30
D. Boon b Hadlee 6
D. Jones c Smith b Hadlee 0
A. Border st Smith b Bracewell 205
S. Waugh lbw b Seales 61
P. Sleep c Smith b Morrison 62
M. Veletta c sub Rutherford b Bracewell 10
G. Dyer run out 60
C. McDermott lbw b Hadlee 18
I. May not out 14
B. Reid not out 5
Extras (b-2 lb-13 w-1 ab-9) 25
Total (for nine wickets) 496
Wicketfalls: 1-29 2-29 3-85 4-201 5-355 6-380 7-417 8-451 9-489
Bowling to date: Hadlee 41-15-68-4 (2nb), Morrison 22-0-89-1 (7ab 1w), Bracewell 48-8-122-2, Seales 32-6-89-1, Gray 44-10-102-0, Patel 7-3-11-0.



Subba Row (left) and Smith at Heathrow airport before boarding a plane for Karachi. (Reuters radiophoto)

Gatting to lead England in Karachi cricket Test

KARACHI, Dec 14, (Reuters): Mike Gatting will captain England in the third and final cricket Test against Pakistan beginning on Wednesday after being told that he has the full backing of the English Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB).

Following a meeting today between the captain and senior officials of the TCCB, Raman Suhra Row, the TCCB chairman said Gatting had been given "the assurance that he has the full backing of the board and there is no question of him being replaced."

Looking

Tour manager Peter Lush said later: "I've had a brief chat with Mike since the meetings and he has said he is looking forward to playing in the match."

Suhra Row and TCCB chief executive Alan Smith held a series of meetings with Gatting, the tour manager, and the rest of the England squad over the captain's heated row with umpire Shakhroo Rana during the second Test in Faisalabad.

Gatting had hinted that he might pull out of the Karachi Test after being pressured by the TCCB into signing a written apology over the use of bad language when he and Shakhroo quarrelled in full view of the television cameras.

The England players were very unhappy over the outcome, and issued a statement defending their captain and criticising the board.

In their statement today, Suhra Row and Smith said: "The purpose of the meetings was to enable the England team and its management to explain

the intense frustration and difficulties experienced during the current tour of Pakistan.

"It had been apparent that the game of cricket and all it stands for has not been played."

"The players expressed their disappointment over those difficulties and regretted that the board had not fully understood their unique severity. In particular, they felt that the board should have given greater support during the first two Test matches."

The England camp were unhappy with several umpiring decisions during the first Test, which they lost by an innings, and the drawn second Test.

Suhra Row confirmed that there was "no question of disciplinary action," against either Gatting or the other players who had backed their captain and said that TCCB representatives would meet senior officers of the Board of Cricket Control for Pakistan "as soon as possible to discuss the problems encountered on the tour."

"These discussions will include the concept of a panel of international umpires," he added.

The official APP news agency said today that the Pakistan board was in the process of seeking neutral umpires for the third Test.

But it quoted BCCP secretary Ijaz Butt as saying that Pakistan umpires would have to stand in the final match of the series if none was available.

Butt said the BCCP had sent a telex to India asking for the services of the Indian umpires who supervised Pakistan's home series against West Indies last year.

The BCCP had also offered the England tour management "complete freedom to acquire umpires from any part of the world to stand at Karachi," APP quoted Butt as saying.

Richards doubly repays Rishton

RISHTON, England, Dec 14, (Reuters): West Indies cricket captain Viv Richards repaid Lancashire League club Rishton handsomely, and not just with runs, when he joined them last season.

Club accounts show record profits of £22,000 (\$40,500) for the year after signing Richards when he was released by county championship side Somerset.

Rishton chairman Will Woodhouse said home game receipts quadrupled, the share of pooled gates was 10 times that of the previous year and income from advertising went up by 20 times.

Sana trounce New Kheitan

SANA Cricket Club defeated New Kheitan Cricket Club by eight wickets in a Star Trophy match at the Hilton ground on Friday.

New Kheitan, batting first, were all out for 106 in 21 overs. Sarfraz was the highest scorer with 48 while Tariq hit 17 and Riaz 11. None of the other batsmen were able to reach the double figures.

Share Arshad was the main wicket-taker with three scalps while Sohail and Naeem got two each. Qayyum and Saeed had a share in the spoils with one wicket each.

Sana started confidently, through Khalid and Arshad, putting on 34 runs for the first wicket before Khalid was out. Saeed went on to score 38 while Arshad remained unbeaten on 51 as Sana went past the victory target in the 16th over. Anwar was the other unbeaten batsman with 10.

India-W. Indies Test heading for draw

BOMBAY, Dec 14, (Reuters): The most weather-affected Test match in Bombay's history looks to be heading for a certain draw when play between India and West Indies resumes tomorrow following today's rest day.

None of the first three days escaped truncation by poor light or rain or both, and Saturday was the first washout recorded in 54 years of Bombay Tests.

After mopping-up operations yesterday morning, India reached a creditable enough 281 against the Caribbean pacemen plus the spin of Clyde Butts, who dismissed Dilip Vengsarkar and Kapil Dev.

Batted

But the home team failed to make a breakthrough during the hour that the tourists batted in reply, and West Indies were 49 for no wicket at the close.

"Looks as if it's going to be draw," said Indian skipper Vengsarkar after yesterday's play. "Only if we can get three of their batsmen out by lunch will there be a result in this match," he added.

Even that modest achievement would leave 17 West Indies wickets standing in the match, and with a pitch that has taken less spin than expected so far it is hard to see the Indians getting them.

West Indies manager Jackie Hendricks told reporters his team could go for quick runs in an effort to build a big lead and then aim to bowl India out cheaply on the final day.

Even that is a tall order — albeit a slightly shorter one than that confronting India, and the odds must be that West Indies, one up in the series, will be content with some batting practice.

Scores after three days: India first innings 281 (K. Srikanth 71, D. Vengsarkar 51, Kapil Dev 47, C. Walsh five for 54). West Indies first innings 49 for no wicket (D. Haynes 36 not out).

It was announced today that Indian cricket officials would meet next week to decide whether a one-day match against West Indies in Calcutta on January 2 should be part of the official limited-over series between the two teams.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) will consider a statement by Hendricks that the match — one of eight one-day internationals announced by the board last month — was an unofficial, fund-raising effort.

Hendricks said the fixture had been agreed between his side and the Cricket Association of Bengal and his players would be paid an extra \$38,000.

BCCI secretary Ranbir Singh said Hendricks now realised he should not have dealt directly with the Bengal Association without consulting the national board.

"No state unit has the right to approach and negotiate with the visiting team the paying terms and conditions for a benefit match without the consent of the board," said Singh.



Vengsarkar: may be fined

The board will discuss the matter in Madras on December 22.

Meanwhile Vengsarkar faces a possible fine for writing a newspaper column on the current series.

Singh said today the board would ask Vengsarkar to justify breaking his contract by writing a syndicated column about the series.

Singh noted that the BCCI could fine him 15,000 rupees (\$1,100) for his first venture into print, double for the next offence and could ban him for a third.

Vengsarkar and the rest of his team signed a contract before the series against West Indies promising not to use their shirts for advertising and not to write about matches while they were actually playing them.

But the skipper believed the contract, like those signed by Indian star players in past years,

was a formality and that the BCCI would turn a blind eye to his widely-read column.

Talking to reporters last Thursday, Vengsarkar pointed out that Richards was writing a column also carried by Indian newspapers and that his own ponderings were needed to redress the balance.

Richards used his space last week to reiterate his belief that a controversial catch he himself took to dismiss Vengsarkar in a one-day match at Nagpur was perfectly fair.

"If the West Indies captain is allowed to use newspaper columns to convey his point of view on any issue, including controversial ones why should we be denied such a forum?" Vengsarkar said. "Let the followers of the game hear both sides — that is only fair."

Retirement

He also mentioned that Sunil Gavaskar, whose commercial exploitation of his own name for everything from soft drinks to men's clothing is a national joke, had written about the game for years before his recent retirement and had never been challenged.

Gavaskar, who could scarcely do otherwise, weighed in yesterday with a column headlined: "Let Vengsarkar write."

About the only national figure to have kept quiet as the controversy rumbles on is the owner of the syndicate for which Vengsarkar writes. He is Kapil Dev, Vengsarkar's predecessor as Indian captain.

Challenge Cup

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia, Dec 14, (AP): Kenya and Zanzibar played to a scoreless draw today in a Group A preliminary match of the East and Central Africa Senior Challenge Cup soccer competition.

British athletes

LONDON, Dec 14, (UPI): Britain's leading athletes will have to qualify for next year's Olympic Games in Seoul after a decision to end pre-selection.

Ngugi and Kipkoech lead Kenyan team

LONDON, Dec 14, (Reuters): John Ngugi and Paul Kipkoech, first and second respectively in this year's World Cross-country Championships in Warsaw, will head a powerful Kenyan men's team in an international event in Cardiff on Saturday.

Teams from England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland will also take part over the demanding eight-kilometre course with Kenya clear favourites to repeat

their team victory in the World Championships last March.

Ngugi retained his world title when he held off Kipkoech in a thrilling finish as both men battled desperately up the home straight. Kipkoech went on to win the 10,000 metres gold medal in the Rome World Championships in September.

Ngugi, who has had a minor operation here to remove a cyst

on his knee, joins the Kenyan team who have been racing in Spain and France.

At a news conference today, David Bedford, chairman of the International Athletics Club, said the overall standard on Saturday would be the highest ever in the annual race.

"We have brought the best of the World Cross-country Championships to Cardiff this week," he said.

Tancredi escapes death in firework incident

MILAN, Italy, Dec 14, (Reuters): Roma goalkeeper Franco Tancredi almost died here in an incident that overshadowed all other events in the Italian Soccer League yesterday.

Roma team doctors said Tancredi's heart stopped beating and he needed heart massage and mouth-to-mouth resuscitation after being hit on the leg and shoulder by two fireworks thrown from the terraces during the match against Milan.

Recover

He was unconscious for 45 minutes and later left hospital in a wheelchair because of temporary paralysis in his legs. Doctors said he should recover fully after resting.

The incident happened just before the start of the second half. Milan went on to win 1-0 through an 86th-minute penalty by Antonio Virdis but authorities are almost certain to overturn the result.

Under Italian rules, a victory can be reversed if a club are forced to change their team or their performance is seriously affected as a result of hooliganism off the pitch.

It was the third time this season that fireworks or coins



Meradona: score the winner for Napoli

have been thrown from the crowd at soccer players but by far the most serious.

"Things like this make you fall out of love with soccer," Milan president Silvio Berlusconi said after the match.

In Naples, unbeaten Napoli kept up their winning streak with a 2-1 win over Juventus in yesterday's big match. Diego Maradona's 89th-minute penalty after Luciano Favero handled the ball gave Napoli their

eighth win in 11 league matches and kept them three points clear of Milan and Sampdoria.

Elsewhere in Europe, Real Madrid showed that life at the top can get monotonous with an unimpressive 2-0 win over Celta in the Spanish League while unbeaten Dutch First Division leaders PSV Eindhoven scored their 16th win for a maximum 32 points.

"We did the minimum required to win and on occasions we lost control of the match," said Real coach Leo Beenhakker. Real went ahead in the first minute through Miguel Tendillo's volleyed goal and Michel scored the second after 64 minutes.

Real now have 25 points from 14 games and only Atletico Madrid, 21 from 14, look to have any chance of catching them. They beat Las Palmas 3-0.

Barcelona's revival came to an abrupt halt with a 4-1 defeat at Real Sociedad, a result that dropped them five places to ninth in the table. Luis Aragones, Barcelona's coach, said: "I don't know whether they were unstoppable or whether we were simply incapable of reacting."

Goals by Alberto Gorri,

Jesus Zamora, who scored twice, and Jose Vaguerro gave Real Sociedad their win which in turn was Barcelona's first defeat in eight league games.

PSV have now scored 66 goals while conceding just 13 in their remarkable start to the season. Wim Kieft scored both their goals yesterday in the 2-1 away win over Haarlem.

Johan Cruyff's Ajax Amsterdam lost 3-1 at VVV Venlo and are now eight points behind PSV, having played one more game.

Monaco, held 1-1 at Toulouse, had their lead at the top of the French League trimmed to three points by Bordeaux and Matra Racing who both won away. Monaco, without England international Mark Hateley and Glenn Hoddle, scored through Marcel Dib.

Claim

A hat-trick by Swedish international striker Mats Magnusson gave Benfica a 4-2 win over Académica yesterday.

But European Cup holders Porto, who beat Penarol of Uruguay in Tokyo to claim the World Club soccer Championship, remained top of the Portuguese League, three points ahead and with a game in hand.

Ladstaetter scores first ever World Cup victory



Ladstaetter (centre) poses on the podium with Nilsson (left) and Fernandez-Ochoa. (Reuters radiophoto)

LEUKERBAD, Switzerland, Dec 14, (AP): The women's World Cup competition entered its Christmas break after slalom specialist Ida Ladstaetter, a six-season veteran, won her first ever World Cup race yesterday, helping the Austrian team to its third victory this season.

But Michela Figini, the 1984 Olympic downhill champion from Switzerland, retained her lead in the overall World Cup standings after back-to-back wins in Friday's downhill and Saturday's super-G races.

Teammate Brigitte Oertli captured the combined event, a paper race based on downhill and slalom results, to raise to five the number of Swiss victories.

Terrifying

The three-day competition at this Valais Alps resort was shadowed by the terrifying spill of American downhill specialist Tori Piller of Park City, Utah, who suffered serious, multiple fractures when she crashed against a steel finish post during the super-G race.

Ladstaetter, 22, and rated among the prettiest entries, was overjoyed after she had finished

the two-beat slalom edging Sweden's Camilla Nilsson by four hundredths of a second. "I had to wait long for this," she said.

Blanca Fernandez-Ochoa, who had won the season's opener at Sestriere, Italy, Nov 26, was third, trailing Ladstaetter by 0.19. This lifted the Spanish all-rounder to second overall place in the standings, with 61 points, behind Figini.

Dianne Roffe, finishing 19th, led the US entries, Beth Madsen was 24th and Pam Fletcher was 30th and last. Fifty-two entries did not finish the races.

Piller's injuries, including a fractured pelvis and right femur, are expected to ground her for a year, according to Chip Woods, head US women's coach. Her accident was the latest in a streak of bad luck hitting the American team. Tamara McKinney, the 1983 overall World Cup champion, broke a leg in pre-season training. Debbie Armstrong suffered a dislocated fibula last summer and Eva Twardokens is lost for the season with a severe knee injury.